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LAST WEEK'S  
AVERAGE DAILY SALE  
337,000

No 63,264

## Ryan decision 'a great insult' says Thatcher

### Anger at Dublin over extradition refusal

- The Irish authorities have refused to extradite Father Patrick Ryan on grounds of public safety and his case
- Mrs Thatcher described the grounds given by the Irish Attorney General yesterday as an insult to the British people
- The possibility of Father Ryan being tried in Dublin appears remote, with concern for the safety of witnesses a prime factor
- Britain will protest in strong terms against the decision at an Anglo-Irish Agreement meeting in Belfast today

By Robin Oakley and Jamie Dettmer

The Irish authorities refused to extradite Father Patrick Ryan, the suspected IRA terrorist, yesterday, causing an angry reaction in London and provoking a bitter inter-governmental dispute.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher described the grounds given for refusing the extradition order as a "great insult to the British people".

Mr John Murray, the Irish Attorney General, said he had rejected Britain's request because remarks in the British media and Parliament had prejudiced any prospect of a fair trial for the priest.

Mrs Thatcher "utterly

repudiated" that claim, insisting that the Irish government should honour its commitment to review extradition legislation.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, then accused the Prime Minister of having "blown" extradition proceedings by her behaviour.

To the fury of Conservatives, he accused her of having been "poisonous".

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about the conduct of affairs by the Irish Attorney General.

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, was cheered by Tories when he said that the Irish action was an insult, a sentiment repeated by Mrs Thatcher.

Whitehall sources said the British Government "deeply and bitterly resented" the Irish decision. It was regarded as pitched in the most deliberately insulting terms that could be imagined.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is to meet Mr Brian Leelan, the Irish foreign minister, at an Anglo-Irish Agreement conference in Belfast today.

Britain will issue a strong protest there—in the words of one Whitehall source, there will be "demands for the cashing of some of the cheques issued by Mr Charles Haughey". The Irish Prime Minister previously promised Mrs Thatcher that if the Irish Extradition Amendment Act did not work, his Government would change it.

Mrs Thatcher said three times yesterday that extradition arrangements were not working. She said she was "calling in" the promise of a review.

British ministers pointed out that publicity over the Ryan case was inevitable, and no different to that in other cases of suspected terrorists.

They said that by the time the Ryan case came to trial, the current publicity would be a remote and faded memory. British courts were scrupulous in convicting only on the evidence presented to them. To suggest anything else was insulting.

Mrs Thatcher said that if

the Irish Attorney General had approved the British warrant to arrest Father Ryan within three days, as his provisional warrant permitted, the priest could have been arrested long before questions about him arose in the Commons.

She said the Government had not ruled out trying to have Father Ryan tried by a Dublin court. But there is little chance of the British authorities pursuing that course.

Mrs Thatcher told MPs that there would be difficulties ensuring the safety of witnesses, and that if a prosecution in the Irish courts failed for lack of sufficient witnesses, it would be impossible to try the case again in Britain.

Last night, Father Ryan vowed that he would fight any attempt to bring him before an Irish court on the British charges.

He said: "I will resist the charges in the same way that I fought extradition." This was taken to mean that he would go on hunger strike, as he did in Belgium.

The priest, said to be still recovering from the effects of that fast, did not comment in person on the Attorney General's decision.

Instead, members of his family, his lawyers and local supporters held a press conference 100 miles from Dublin in Co Tipperary.

A brief statement from Ryan, saying the decision was a victory "principally due to the support given to me by the Irish people", was read to journalists by one of his backers.

In rejecting the extradition request, Mr Murray claimed statements in the Commons must, because of their origin, carry particular weight with potential jurors.

"That being so, the Attorney General has had to consider whether it is open to him to ignore the effect of these statements on members of a jury which would try Ryan if he were extradited to Britain," he said.

It was pointed out in Whitehall last night that the worst thing said of Father Ryan in the Commons was the description of him on November 29 as "one of the most wanted terrorists" by Mr Michael Mates, a Tory backbencher.

While stressing his total opposition to terrorism of any sort, and proposing a new three-point plan for a UN-sponsored peace conference, Mr Arafat significantly failed to endorse what appeared to have been a shift in the PLO's stand on Israel.

With the international spotlight so firmly focused on Mr Arafat's appearance in Geneva, his reluctance to commit himself to more than a broad endorsement of existing UN resolutions is seen by some insiders as reflecting severe strains within his organization on the short-term course of policy towards Israel.

And in a calculated attack on American policy, Mr Arafat emphasized how "painful" the Palestinian response to its effective limit.

Put another way, Mr Arafat—wearing his favourite khaki uniform and black and white check Arab headdress—did not appear to retreat significantly from his recent declarations concerning the PLO's rejection of terrorism, and its acceptance of the right of Israel to exist.

After such a promising build-up to the address, he could scarcely have done less and still hope, as he must, to win the support of West European nations for his long-term objective of establishing contacts between the PLO and Washington.

What we got yesterday was an unusually restrained address with an appeal to the Israelis, repeated several times, to "let us make peace together".

In the judgement of one veteran Arafat watcher, while his long, frequently flowery speech may have fallen a little short of some expectations, "he stretched the Palestinian response to its effective limit".

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## Courage of the girl who plans to marry in June



Courage: Mrs Margaret Thatcher talks to Alison Killyer, who was hurt in Monday's train disaster at Clapham Junction, during a visit yesterday to St George's Hospital, south London. Miss Killyer plans to marry in June. Report, page 3



Sorrow: A wreath on railings beside the track at Clapham yesterday pays a poignant tribute to the 33 commuters who died

## Disaster fault not found by BR team

By Tony Dawe  
Howard Foster and  
Ruth Gledhill

British Rail staff were checking the signals on the line into Clapham Junction on the night before Monday's triple train crash but failed to find the fault which is being blamed for the disaster.

They gave the all-clear for Monday morning rush-hour trains to use the line but the fault occurred causing signals to flick at random from red to yellow and green. The fault resulted in an express ploughing into the back of a crowded commuter train, killing 33 people. Experienced drivers told *The Times* yesterday that faults have been occurring regularly on the line.

Mr Ray Haines, managing director of M.L. Engineering, which installed the new sig-

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nals involved in the crash, last night queried the extent of testing by British Rail staff before they gave the all-clear. He said that it looked as if a loose wire or poor connection in the wiring work done by British Rail between the signal and the signal box was to blame.

"The indication is that there are so many fail-safe features in the system that it could only have been a failure in the wiring that could have stopped the fail-safe working," he said.

One theory which the British Rail internal inquiry will want to examine is the possibility that vibrations from trains caused a loose wire to make the signals flicker.

Last night the death toll was adjusted from 36 after police reassessed the remains taken from the wreckage. Twenty-four of the victims were men, nine were women, and their ages ranged from the early twenties to the sixties. Most came from Hampshire and Dorset, where two of the three trains had started their fateful journeys. They included the driver of the express, Mr John Rolfe, aged 54, from Bourne-mouth, and another driver on his way to work, Mr Arthur Creech from Basingstoke. City executives travelling in the front carriage of the express were also among the dead.

Forty-two people are still in hospital, five of them seriously injured. Some of the injured were visited yesterday by the Prime Minister and the

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WIN £52,000

### Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

● Yesterday's £4,000 daily prize was unclaimed, so the Portfolio Accumulator rises today to £52,000. Prices: page 31

## TV licence fees set to remain

By Richard Evans  
Media Editor

Television licence fees are set to continue funding the BBC. Senior Cabinet ministers are openly admitting that plans in last month's broadcasting White Paper, involving the replacement of the licence fee, possibly by subscription TV, "will never happen".

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, and Lord Young, the Secretary for Trade and Industry, are both known to be cool towards abolishing the licence fee and the idea's inclusion in the White Paper is put down to Prime Ministerial "whim".

● Greed warning: Lord Barnett, vice-chairman of the BBC, warned the Treasury last night not to be "too greedy" by trying to extract too much from broadcasting companies.

## Tunnel delay

Construction firms involved at the French end of the £5.25 billion Channel tunnel project have said Eurotunnel's original difficulties in raising finance are partly to blame for delays which could cost £20 million. Page 25

## Clowes payout

Only 1,000 of the 7,000 investors who put money into the British arm of Mr Peter Clowes' failed investment group are likely to receive any of their money back before Christmas. Page 25

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## Arafat's UN speech fails to satisfy the West on Israel

From Philip Jacobson, Geneva

In a fluent 80-minute address to the UN General Assembly here yesterday Mr Yasser Arafat pledged the support of the PLO for "a just and lasting settlement" of the Palestinian problem, but disappointed Western diplomatic observers by failing to repeat explicit recognition of Israel's right to exist.

While stressing his total opposition to terrorism of any sort, and proposing a new three-point plan for a UN-sponsored peace conference, Mr Arafat significantly failed to endorse what appeared to have been a shift in the PLO's stand on Israel.

With the international spotlight so firmly focused on Mr Arafat's appearance in Geneva, his reluctance to commit himself to more than a broad endorsement of existing UN resolutions is seen by some insiders as reflecting severe strains within his organization on the short-term course of policy towards Israel.

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Put another way, Mr Arafat—wearing his favourite khaki uniform and black and white check Arab headdress—did not appear to retreat significantly from his recent declarations concerning the PLO's rejection of terrorism, and its acceptance of the right of Israel to exist.

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## The Liberated Lady

A Lady will always be admired.  
A Lady cannot be taken for granted.  
A Lady may be tough.  
A Lady cannot be compromised.  
A Lady has poise.  
A Lady may always be relied upon.  
A Lady has charm.  
A Lady will always be respected.  
A Lady is always straightforward.  
A Lady is often envied,  
sometimes copied,  
always imitable.



The Lady  
WATERMAN

The Lady Fountain Pen, number 1717.  
Pen a whole range of refined and individual fountain pens and ballpoint pens, and pens designed and manufactured by Waterman for ladies and gentlemen of distinction.  
Price range: from £20.00 to £100.00.

## Britain to send one million eggs to Armenia

By John Young  
Agricultural Correspondent

Up to a million eggs, donated by British producers from the accumulating surplus resulting from the present public scare over salmonella poisoning, are expected to be flown from Heathrow today as part of a relief consignment for victims of the Armenian earthquake.

Mr Keith Pulman, secretary of the United Kingdom Egg Producers' Association, said yesterday that the offer had been made by telephone to the Soviet Embassy in London, where an official said he would be "delighted" to accept as many eggs as the association could send.

Producers have been asked to send unwanted eggs to collection points

throughout the country. They will then be taken to the depot at Heathrow handling relief supplies.

Since the statement by Mrs Edwina Currie 11 days ago that most British eggs are contaminated by salmonella, home demand has dropped by an estimated 60 per cent. Mr Pulman

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said yesterday the industry's losses were running at £5 million a week.

The Government had been expected yesterday to give details of an advertising campaign to reassure the public about the safety of eating eggs, but it appeared last night that an announcement had been postponed.

A Ministry of Agriculture official said it had not yet been decided whether the cost of the campaign would be met by his Ministry or by the Department of Health.

But he stressed that the purpose of the campaign would be to reassure the public rather than to provide specific help for the industry.

Mr Pulman said that producers were angered by the "gross incompetence" of the Government in failing to take the industry into its confidence. Both the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Health had been aware of a problem since the early summer, but producers had at no time been officially informed.

"We have still had no invitation for talks with the Ministry, and it was

only yesterday that we received a copy of the code of practice on our fax machine," he said.

The Ministry said yesterday there had been discussions over several months about a code of hygiene practice. A Department of Health press notice had been issued in late August advising that the elderly and other vulnerable groups should avoid eating raw eggs.

Mr Pulman expressed concern about shops advertising "free-range, salmonella-free eggs". Of the 12 firms directly implicated in salmonella outbreaks, only three employed battery systems, he pointed out. The only claim a producer was entitled to make was that his flock had been tested and found to be free of disease.



# £2,000 offer now to each bereaved family

## Hopes rise for prompt settlement of claims

By Michael Horswell

British Rail yesterday offered £2,000 in immediate relief payments to each bereaved family by the Clapham Junction disaster.

Hopes are rising of speedy compensation settlements in full for death and injury in spite of Britain's archaic compensation laws.

The compensation cost is expected to be between £5 million and £10 million. British Rail said last night it is covered by insurance.

A spokesman for the board said: "Having accepted responsibility for the accident, there seems to be no point in making things more difficult for the bereaved and injured. We would not want that. Claims will be considered sympathetically and as quickly as possible."

The Law Society has activated its disaster co-ordination service, which refers claimants to specialist solicitors and encourages lawyers to act in concert.

The society plans to hold a meeting of victims' solicitors early next week and to elect a steering committee to negotiate with the rail board. A Law Society hotline to advise claimants, on 01 242 1222, was immediately busy.

Railway managers are to start visiting next of kin today to express regret and assess immediate individual needs.

Cheques for £2,000 are expected to be offered to all who claim it, whether personally or through solicitors, though this

sum may be deducted from eventual compensation.

All funeral expenses will be met by the British Railways Board as well as travelling costs for people visiting the injured in hospital.

The Clapham Junction disaster has brought renewed criticism of the law governing compensation for bereavement, which still stands at £3,500 under the Fatal Accidents Act, 1976.

Under that Act the sum is only payable to the spouse of a dead husband or wife and to the parents of dead children.

But people pursuing a bereavement claim through their solicitors against British Railways Board under the Act will not be compensated additional legal claims under the two other heads of damages incorporated in the legislation — loss of earnings and dependency on a spouse.

Although the bereavement claim is fixed by the courts the plaintiff is open to pursue whatever claim his lawyers feel reflects the dead person's age and earning potential.

A private members' Bill to raise the level of bereavement compensation to £10,000 a claimant is to be introduced by Mr Lawrence Cunliffe, Labour MP for Leigh, amid growing pressure for a more realistic figure.

Mr Roger Panone, the Manchester solicitor who specializes in accident settlements, said: "The present maximum is far too low."

Mr Panone, who dealt with claims arising from the Manchester air disaster and the Piper Alpha oil platform explosion, congratulated British Rail for accepting responsibility, which he described as "the quickest admission yet and very commendable".

He added: "Although levels of compensation will not approach Piper Alpha, there are many people whose families can expect to receive sums of six figures. But the level of compensation will be relatively low compared with what society demands."

Piper Alpha settlements are unusually large because of the threat that compensation might be sought in the American courts, where higher levels of damages are normally paid, instead of in Britain.

Mr Patrick Allen, a solicitor who helped co-ordinate the King's Cross fire claims for compensation, and who advises the Law Society, said: "It is to be welcomed that BR has admitted liability but it is still not an easy task to work out what each person should get in compensation for pecuniary loss and dependency on a dead spouse."

"You can't settle compensation for injuries, either, until you know the final outcome in terms of a person's physical or psychological damage. You just cannot rush cases such as those." He added that victims of the Clapham disaster need not worry about the cost of taking legal advice because that will be met by the board.



## Unions attack lack of radio

By Tim Jones and Rodney Cowton

The train drivers' union, ASLEF, said last night it was astonishing and disturbing that no trains in Britain's busiest commuter region, south of the Thames, had cab radios to link the drivers with signal boxes.

The union's attack came after Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, had agreed that it was ridiculous that none of the drivers of the trains involved in the Clapham Junction tragedy could communicate by radio with signal boxes.

British Rail said no Southern Region locomotives had radio but put part of the blame on the unions for their long opposition to driver-only trains.

ASLEF (the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen) says that in spite of constant calls for "proper working train radio" conventional operators were "right years ahead".

BR has no plans to fit radios in the kind of trains involved in the tragedy — the old style "slam door" type. BR plans to fit them only to relatively new rolling stock with sliding doors on the stretch of line where the accident happened.

The radio links are a condition of the introduction of driver-only trains.

The installation of radios in mainline locomotives and High Speed trains is now 80 per cent complete, and is expected to be finished by March.

The rail unions plan to use the public inquiry into the Clapham Junction disaster as an opportunity to air long standing grievances which they claim have jeopardized safety standards.

ASLEF is calling for the introduction of aircraft-style "black boxes" into cabs so that future incidents can be recorded electronically.

The National Union of Railwaymen said that because of a drive to cut costs signal box operators frequently worked more than 50 hours a week. "It is a highly responsible and complex job and in that situation shifts of 10 or 12 hours or more are nonsense."

Yesterday drivers said they felt betrayed by the signalling failures and spoke of their distress and confusion caused by faulty signalling. One said: "You've got to be able to have faith in a signal especially if it is showing green. You have to believe there is nothing in front of you for the next three signals."

The drivers, who insisted on remaining anonymous, had all driven over the scene of Monday's disaster. They said that a massive three-year signal renewal programme in the region — some of it in readiness for the high speed Channel tunnel rail link — often had them confused. Old and new signals stood side by side, they said.

"If you are renewing signalling, you have to erect the new gantry before you take the old one down", one driver explained. "The new signal might be just a matter of yards from the old. They put black crosses over the old signal to show it isn't working. Nor does it have any lights."

"You can't just take down a gantry overnight. But after a period of years, you get used to seeing the signals in one position. Then you suddenly come across a signal that is altered."

"These are eventually noted down in a special signal book to inform drivers. But if you come on duty on a Monday morning and the original signalling crew were working over the weekend, as they usually do, you would not know."

"It can be very confusing, especially if you are travelling at speed, and it's happening all over this area."

## Party will still go ahead

By David Sapsted

The father of Katherine Webb, who will be nine today, was among the 24 men and nine women who died in the disaster. However, her mother plans to go ahead with a party.

"We are still planning to try and make it a happy day for her and we intend to go on with the celebrations", Mrs Naila Webb said at the family home near Brockenhurst in the New Forest last night.

Mr Bill Webb, aged 39, a chartered accountant, was a former Plessey employee but started work for a Victoria-based company last year. He died when the Bournemouth train, which he had boarded at Brockenhurst, Hampshire, at 6.45 on Monday morning, crashed into the back of the stationary commuter service from Basingstoke.

Mrs Webb, who has also a son, Matthew, aged 10, had been married for 16 years. Ten men and six women who died in the crash came from Dorset and at least

another 15 from Hampshire. One of the Dorset victims was Mr Paul Perry-Lewis, aged 48, of Wimbourne Road, Bournemouth, a banker and dedicated sports fan, who leaves a wife Carol and a teenage son. He was a member of Hampshire Cricket Club and a vice-president of Bournemouth Football Club.

Scotland Yard last night issued a list of casualties detained in hospital. Most are from Hampshire and Poole. All but three were being treated at St George's Hospital, Tooting, south London.

Those treated elsewhere were named as Alison MacCallum, 31, with slight injuries, at St George's Hospital, Bournemouth; Trevor Boyce, 46, serious, at St Stephen's Hospital, Fulham; and Derek Robins, 30, serious, St Stephen's.

Those at St George's were: Ian Dennis, 40, very serious, Catherine O'Leary, 32, very serious; Michael Carling, 33, serious; Eric Dodson, 37, serious; Gerald

Downes, 26, serious; Rollo Duckworth, 31, serious; Claire Elliott, 26, serious; Seamus Gallagher, serious; Katy Goodall, 23, serious; Alison Killeen, 26, serious; Barry Knight, 60, serious; Donald McKenzie, 38, serious; Lee Middleton, 39, serious; Allan Phillipson, 61, serious; Terrence Rowley, serious; Tony Smith, 47, serious; Anthony Steele, 33, serious; Paul Streeter, 21, serious; John Sweetenham, 32, serious; Louise Taylor, 30, serious; Charles Brook, 38, slight; Colin Campbell, 46, slight; Janice Canfield, 35, slight; Alan Christie, 31, slight; Alison Clarke, 25, slight; Michael Costain, 21, slight; Colin Darbon, 52, slight; Robert Edwards, 31, slight; Timothy Harris, 43, slight; Millie Neff, 50, slight; John O'Sullivan, 42, slight; Alan Radcliffe, 29, slight; Peter Shuttleworth, 40, slight; Ian Underhill, 41, slight; Henry Vernon, 54, slight; John Woods, 28, slight.

Those also named as injured were: David Carr, Leslie Elliott; Christopher Giddings; Fred Prior, 51; George Terry; Howard Spence; Lesley Worral.

Teams of policemen were still painstakingly picking up and clearing away debris from the track near Clapham Junction, south-west London, yesterday but British Rail said trains would be back to normal sometime today. A wreath of lilies and roses, placed on nearby railings by two passing young men in the early hours of the morning, and a solitary bunch of daffodils were a reminder of the carnage of the previous day. Most of the carriages have been lifted back on to the

rails and towed away, but the devastated buffet car, the second carriage of the Bournemouth train in which about 50 people died or were seriously injured, was taken apart, piece by piece, to be scrapped. The last carriage of the Basingstoke train was so completely derailed that workmen were forced to lift it by two cranes and remove it by road trailer. Mr Gordon Pettit, the general manager of British Rail's Southern Region, confirmed at the scene that the

driver of the first train involved had left his cab to query the signalling. British Rail said the fault was in the cabling and that a new signalling system had only just come on line. The British Rail official did not deny a report that the signals had been reported out of order just hours before the crash. He said a number of faults were reported every weekend and that it would be premature to say if one particular fault was connected with the accident.

## Overcrowding is 'greatest risk factor'

By Paul Valley and Rodney Cowton

Overcrowding is the greatest risk to safety on British Rail commuter lines around London, a leading authority on rail travel said yesterday.

Dr John Hibbs, professor of business and management studies at Birmingham Polytechnic, said: "There must be a grave suspicion that it contributed greatly to the scale of the disaster at Clapham Junction."

The Central Transport Consultative Committee — a watchdog organization for rail users — also expressed concern at passenger loads yesterday, and urged the public inquiry into the Clapham disaster to investigate fully the risks to standing passengers.

A spokesman said the inquiry should not confine itself to the particular circumstances of Monday's accident, but should establish whether

current loading standards on all trains were appropriate.

At present, Network South-East aims for a loading level where no passenger should have to stand for more than 20 minutes. In carriages with hinged doors, standing passengers should not exceed 10 per cent of the number of seats. In modern rolling stock with sliding doors, the number standing should be not more than 35 per cent of the seating capacity.

The standards have been approved by the Department of Transport, but they are not legally binding. British Rail's InterCity expresses have no standing limitations.

Professor Hibbs said overcrowding was determined by British Rail's funding system. Since the railways had passed into public control, governments of all political

shades had insisted on maintaining subsidies, he said.

"But they were not prepared to invest the amounts for updating equipment and increasing capacity that were needed. The result has been to invest in the seventies, [new investment] will do no more than catch up with what has been neglected so far."

Professors Hibbs said: "Accidents like the one at Clapham Junction will occur, sadly, on any railway system, however they are run."

"The hardest question for transport managers is asking what increment of safety we are buying for every pound we spend on any given scheme."

"There is a paradox: you have to pay for safety, but, having paid, there can be no guarantee that you will ever be safe."

around 40 to 50 years before it needs substantial renewal. To avoid a massive bill, the sensible thing is to invest constantly in updating it."

"The Tories are spending record sums, but because Labour Governments did not invest in the seventies, [new investment] will do no more than catch up with what has been neglected so far."

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"There is a paradox: you have to pay for safety, but, having paid, there can be no guarantee that you will ever be safe."

## Lone commuters fight fears awaiting the 7.18

By Howard Foster

John McCormick cut a lonely figure waiting for the 7.18 Basingstoke train to take him to London yesterday.

The morning before, Fleet station would have been crowded with the daily commuter flow preparing to pack into the train to Waterloo via Clapham Junction. Yesterday, Mr McCormick was one of 20 who could face it after Monday's crash.

Mr McCormick, a tax inspector, has caught the same train for six years. "I have to admit that I felt a qualm about climbing aboard the train this morning but I just told myself that the chances of being killed in a train are far less than dying in a car accident."

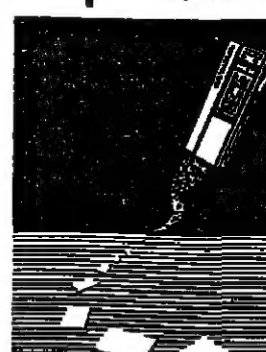
He counts himself lucky to have been asleep and four car-

riages from the rear of his train when the Bournemouth express plunged into it. "At least I do not carry the images in my mind of bodies being flung around carriages."

"I helped to get three people out with broken bones. I will always remember a doctor who had a broken leg calmly instructing us how to put it in a splint made out of a piece of wood we found."

Mr Peter Allen, an accountant from Fleet, summed up the feelings of all the regular commuters who travelled yesterday against the wishes of their families: "If I had not come in on Tuesday, it would have been no easier on Wednesday. It is a bit like falling off a horse, if you want to ride again you have to get back on again straight away."

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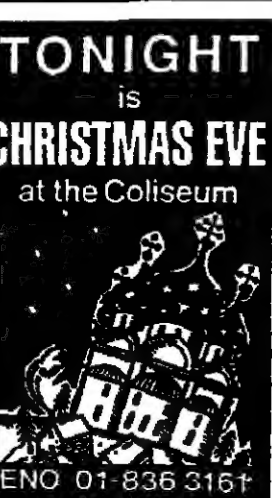
PHILIPS



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## DISASTER AT CLAPHAM JUNCTION

# Duchess hears the nightmare stories of injured victims

By Andrew Morgan and Andrew Moger

The Duchess of York discovered two old friends were among victims of the Clapham Junction rail crash when she visited St George's Hospital in Tooting, south London, yesterday afternoon.

She first came across Captain Rollo Duckworth, aged 31, from Hampshire, who had fractured his jaw and was being prepared for an operation.

The Duchess then appeared startled to discover Mr Gerald Downes, an insurance broker aged 35, from White Parish, near Salisbury, who boarded the Bournemouth to Waterloo train at Southampton Park and sustained a fractured knee and leg gashes during the collision when he was sitting near the front of the train.

She approached Mr Downes and said: "I have just recognized you, how are you?" He replied: "I'm lucky to be alive. I have never seen anything like it. It was very distressing, and a nightmare but you have to keep living."

Mr Downes, whose sister, like the Duchess, went to Hurst Lodge School, added: "It's been terrific here. It could not be better. It is very good of you to come in and see the troops." The Duchess replied: "The emergency services have been brilliant."

Earlier, the Prime Minister spent two hours at St George's, which received most of the injured, and was given accounts of their escapes from the wreckage.

Her visit had been "distressing", but she said she had been buoyed by the devotion of medical teams and the resilient morale of those who had survived the worst of the devastation.

One of the victims, whom Mrs Thatcher described as "superbly courageous", told her how she feared that her planned wedding in June might be marred because she would be disfigured by injuries to her face.

Miss Alison Killery, aged 26, who works in the person-

nel department of a chartered accountancy firm, told the Prime Minister she had caught her train as normal from Basingstoke.

"I remember a big bang and then heaps and heaps of metal crashing on to me. I fell down almost on to the ground. Then I was lucky enough to be conscious to remember where I was and what happened. So I climbed up and some men above the wreckage pulled me out."

Miss Killery said her rescuers then smashed through the window of an adjoining carriage, through which she climbed, with the help of another woman passenger she walked along the track sleepers to the arms of ambulance-men close to Clapham Junction station.

As she was pulled to her feet she looked up at the tangle of wreckage above her. "The wheel of the train was above me, still spinning from the impact of the crash", she said.

It is astonishing, sometimes, the morale of some of the patients, even in intensive care.

She was one of four patients with whom Mrs Thatcher spoke at the hospital, where a total of 39 passengers were still receiving treatment yesterday. Five were still in intensive care.

Dr John Sweetenham, a cancer specialist from Romsey, Hampshire, also described the disaster to Mrs Thatcher. "I remember the train coming along quite happily, then suddenly bags and bits of seat were flying around the carriage. I must have passed out for a few minutes. But when I came around I was trapped by my feet. Some of the passengers got me out very quickly."

Dr Sweetenham broke his left leg and had hand injuries. Mrs Thatcher spoke to a

number of senior specialists at the hospital in charge of its response to the disaster. She said: "Everything worked superbly. It has been magnificent."

Referring to the aftermath of other disasters, Mrs Thatcher added that the response of doctors and patients followed a pattern.

"I have been to many: Bradford, King's Cross, Hungerford, Piper Alpha. You always come away being uplifted by two things - the total devotion of doctors and nurses and everyone associated with the hospital. All came on duty, wherever they were, and they have been on duty a very long time."

"A thousand people came to give blood and everyone converged asking if there was anything they could do. It really makes you realize what a wonderful service it is."

"Secondly, it is astonishing, sometimes, the morale of some of the patients, even in intensive care. They are very anxious to say hello and to know that you have been to see them, and also to say thank you."

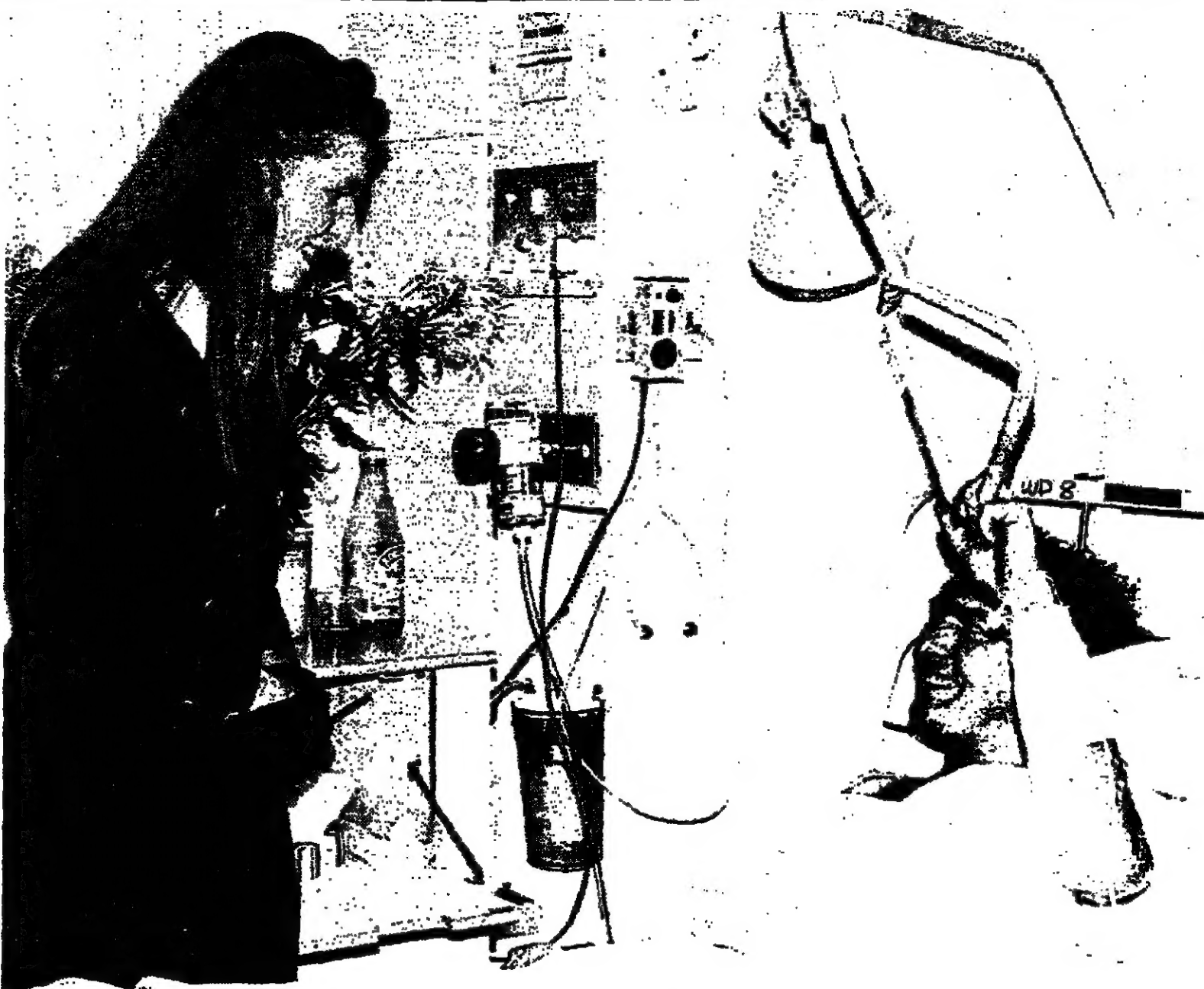
Mrs Thatcher also spoke to Mr Eric Dadson, aged 37, from Regent Park, Southampton, who told her he believed he had lost two friends in the collision.

Mr Dadson, a carpenter, was travelling in the buffet area of the train travelling from Bournemouth, had cuts and bruises to his face.

One of his legs was trapped by debris and it took two hours before he arrived at St George's. He pointed cheerfully to a picture of himself immersed under debris in a national newspaper.

Mrs Thatcher told him: "You look remarkably cheerful. You were very, very lucky." When he told the Prime Minister of the suspected deaths of his friends she said: "It is all terribly sad."

Mr Tony Smith, aged 47, from Church Cookham, near Fleet, Hampshire, also had cuts and bruises to his face



The Duchess of York speaking to Mr Gerald Downes, an old friend hurt in the crash whom she met unexpectedly during her visit to St George's Hospital.

and was due for further X-rays to check for internal injuries after talking with Mrs Thatcher.

Mr Smith, a British Telecom manager, told the Prime Minister that the train was not his usual one and he had been hoping to get off at Clapham Junction. "That was the last thing I remember until being helped out. The carriage was turned over on its side and I climbed through the door which was now skyward", he told her.

Among other injured victims at St George's the Duchess met was Mr Mickey Costen, aged 21, from Basingstoke, a joiner's mate

with British Rail, who had been sitting on the floor of a carriage on the Basingstoke-Waterloo train.

He said he would have been sent hurtling through the window if he had been standing up. He had gashes to his legs and head and bruises to his arms. The Duchess said: "They are doing a wonderful job. You are very lucky and I hope all goes well with you."

She then met Mr Seamus Gallagher, aged 42, from Millford-on-Sea, who boarded the Bournemouth-Waterloo train at Brockenhurst in Hampshire. He had lacerations and bruises to his arms and legs.

Mr Gallagher, who runs a project management company, said: "The train from Waterloo stopped within three feet of me. A woman who landed in front of me was in a bad way and most of the bones in her body were broken."

The Duchess also spoke with the hospital's management and medical staff as well as teams of police, ambulance-men and firemen.

The Duchess finally visited the blood transfusion centre, where upwards of 1,000 people had volunteered to give blood on Monday in the immediate aftermath of the collision with many queuing for up to three hours.

## Relatives of 'critical' man come forward

The last of the 38 patients detained at St George's Hospital, Tooting, after the Clapham Junction disaster was identified last night after relatives came forward.

He is in his mid-30s and critically ill with abdominal bleeding and severe damage to the lungs. Doctor Alberic Fennes, senior registrar, declined to name him as his condition was critical.

Scotland Yard said that two patients were detained at St Stephen's Hospital, Fulham

and one at St James's Hospital, Balham. Doctor Fennes said most of the passengers at St George's had bone or muscular damage. Many of the injured had been cushioned from the effects of the crash because they were concussed.

He added: "I think that some of the patients will never be the same again. One can get over broken bones but one can't as easily get over limb deformities, the partial loss of functions and scars."

## Hero who forgot his birthday



Terry Stoppani, the boy who was first into the wrecked carriages at Clapham, with photographers and reporters yesterday.

By David Tytler, Education Editor  
He was four foot six, perhaps seven, he thought, and yes, he was the first person to go into the carriages thrown into the air in Monday's Clapham train crash. Monday was also his twelfth birthday.

Terry Stoppani, of North Cheam, in south-west London, was sitting in the headmaster's study in his Emanuel School uniform of grey flannel trousers, white shirt, gold striped dark blue tie, dark blue blazer with gold percolitis badge topped by a Tudor rose.

Just a few yards away outside railwaymen were still working on the bent and buckled track.

Terry explained what happened as he walked into school on Monday with his friends Joe Naylor and Peter Pantechi. "There was a huge bang, just like a bomb explosion. I saw all parts of the train flying into the air with three or four people flying into the air."

"We jumped over the railings and

climbed into the train through a broken window. The first thing I saw was legs with jeans and shoes on. There was no top half of the body."

"There were some people under the train. In the train people were screaming and too frightened to talk. We started pulling people out through the window, taking their cases."

Mr Peter Thomson, headmaster of Emanuel, founded in 1594 by Lady Anne Dacre, a cousin of Elizabeth the First, knew exactly what he thought of Terry: "He is very gutsy and is already captain of his year in rugby."

The school looked after 120 victims from the crash, including 30 to 40 "walking wounded", offering first aid, tea and sandwiches.

It was visited yesterday by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, who spent 45 minutes talking to teachers, boys, clerical and catering staff who had helped in the rescue.

"I visited Emanuel School to thank the

headmaster, staff, dinner ladies and boys. They were first on the scene and showed immense courage and maturity. We are deeply indebted for their very practical, swift help", he said.

Mr Baker had particular praise for Mr Thomson, the headmaster, who provided emergency aid while keeping the school running, taking many lessons himself and refusing to cancel the annual Christmas Carol service on Monday evening.

Mr Thomson said: "Of course it had to go on. The only question was whether people would be able to attend. The service was totally packed. We had prayers for the families and the survivors and the school chaplain referred to the tragedy in his short address."

Terry Stoppani, asked what his parents thought, said: "My mum said she was terrified when she heard it on the radio, and if she had known I was there she would not have let me go."

"I forgot it was my birthday."

## Pathologists struggle to identify crash victims

By David Nicholson-Lord

Teams trying to identify victims of the Clapham Junction rail disaster are having to rely on clothing, personal possessions and papers recovered from the wreckage.

Visual identification proved impossible for most of the victims yesterday. Only a handful of bodies were recognizable.

Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster Coroner, apolo-

gized to relatives for the delay, but said staff faced "considerable difficulties". The bodies have been taken to Westminster mortuary, but the total number of dead is not yet clear.

Inquests on some victims will be opened and adjourned today. Where possible, death certificates will be issued to relatives to allow them to proceed with funeral arrangements.

Two forensic teams, led by

Dr Iain West, head of the forensic department at Guy's Hospital, began work at 1pm on Monday, five hours after the accident, and continued until 1am yesterday morning, when Dr Knapman called a halt.

One staff member said: "People were getting tired and likely to make mistakes."

The teams, consisting of two pathologists, two photographers, a fingerprint expert and a laboratory liaison of-

ficer, were trying to avoid the situation where relatives came "banging on the door with photographs of loved ones", he added.

Relatives were asked to go to Lavender Hill police station in Battersea, south-west London, to identify personal items, or to Westminster mortuary, where visual identification was possible.

Priests helped counsel those who were asked to identify bodies and personal effects.

## A GREAT CHALLENGE PROFIT FROM HUMAN VALUES

### WHAT IS IT?

For decades, writers have been observing the decline in human values and saying "we must do something". Social and political leaders have been commenting on the increase in alienation, hopelessness and violence and saying, "we must do something". Philosophers have been observing the rise in cynicism and ruthlessness and saying "we must do something". And today, most people, in all levels of society, weary of the pressure of harmful influences on themselves, their families and their children are saying "we must do something".

### WHAT IS IT THAT HAS TO BE DONE?

... and by whom? ... and how?

I have a vision. A vision inspired by the same tensions and pressures of today's life that have created the problems. Yes! I believe the problem offers the solution. I want to look at all communication techniques used so successfully to achieve ever increasing material prosperity for the human race, and employ them in a new role to help bring happiness, harmony and tranquillity to all those who are so desperately seeking them. And I want YOU to be a part of it. A part of a great solution.

### THE BIRTH OF A NEW INDUSTRY

Now that we have conquered new frontiers in the "Atom Age" and the "Jet Age" and the "Computer Age" why can't we pioneer a new "Age of human well-being". This can be a highly profitable and extensively rewarding new industry. Profitable industries have supported every major development in social life in the 20th Century. But in the process, simple human values like responsibility, co-operation, tolerance, courage, patience, hope and many others, have largely been left to fend for themselves until now. Just as the pharmaceutical industry exists for our physical health so we can create a profitable industry to promote our psychic and social well-being. Pause and think about the New Brave World where technology, commerce and industry are all at the service of "human values", rather than human values being slaves to commercial interests and industrial motives.

### THE FIRST STEP

This concept has become my passionate conviction and I have devoted nearly two decades to developing the idea into marketable products. Many artists, graphic designers and writers have been commissioned to create effective and positive messages to promote human values. Swiss experts have been commissioned to develop a machine that can project a variety of TV commercial style, 60 second films to evoke desired emotions, selected by the individual. If you are burning with anger, or subdued with lack of drive, there is an audio-visual message stored in the machine which should help you overcome the unwelcome feeling. A well known British graphic designer has been commissioned to develop human values symbols similar to traffic signs to express and inspire great human qualities. All these creations and developments and the theory behind them are put together in a book called WHAT IS IT? As the first step and the prototype product line for this revolutionary industry.

### WHAT IS IT?

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and can be found in all the following departments  
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### AN OPEN INVITATION

I am inviting all caring, influential, responsible people everywhere to read this book, get to know it well and to form their own ideas of its value. I am sure that many other institutions and individuals will soon join this crusade. Industrialists, Scientists, Political and Social leaders, Legislators, Councilors, Entrepreneurs, Businessmen, Book distributors and publishers, Communicators, Writers, Critics, Film makers, Musicians, Artists, Designers, Psychologists, Psychiatrists corporations and institutions could initiate their own efforts in developing this new industry. I invite the media to play its important and historic role in employing the idea as I have explained in the book WHAT IS IT?, and help in spreading universal awareness about it.

You will find in the book a full explanation of a great new idea and many beautifully illustrated examples of how it works in simple ways to reinforce the positive human qualities. This has nothing to do with cultism, religion, philosophy or politics. It has everything to do with the simple human values which are so neglected and undernourished today. It is an idea with tremendous implications. Please take it seriously.

### JOIN THE GREAT CHALLENGE

History has shown us that people of influence, vision and goodwill can do much to hasten the spread of new ideas and new movements. Never was a new movement needed so urgently as this. I am inviting and urging you to join with me to help in the early stages of this great new movement, using your personal influence, your professional skill and your financial power in whatever ways suit you best. More power to you.

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# AMIGA



## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Britain one of the cheaper countries

Britain is becoming one of the cheapest countries in the world, according to a survey published today to help international companies estimate cost of living allowances. The survey, by Employment Conditions Abroad Ltd, shows that between 1980 and 1988 the cost of purchasing a "shopping basket" of essential items has increased by 60 per cent in the UK compared with 92 per cent for Western Europe as a whole and more than 1,000 per cent in several other countries.

A league table of 70 countries places Japan top with Ecuador the cheapest. Britain, forty-seventh in 1980, is fifty-second. Compared with the UK index of 100, against which living costs in each country are compared, China, which was the least expensive country in 1980, is now 55 per cent more expensive than the UK, having risen to twelfth position. The survey covered food, drink and tobacco, household durables, services, clothing and motoring. *Employment Conditions Abroad (ECA, Anchor House, 15 Britton Street, London SW3 3TY; by subscription).*

## N-plant cancer study

A £3 million independent investigation is going to be launched that could resolve the alleged link between childhood leukaemia and low levels of radiation discharged from nuclear power plants. The five-year project was announced yesterday by the UK Co-ordinating Committee on Cancer Research, representing the big cancer research foundations and charities, and the Medical Research Council. Scientists have proved that some people inherit a much higher sensitivity to radiation damage than others.

## Arts awards launched

The Prudential yesterday launched Britain's most expensive annual arts awards with yearly prize money of £200,000. Next July, winning non-profit making arts organizations will get £25,000 in each of five categories: dance, music, opera, theatre and visual arts. As with the Whitbread book prize, an outright winner will collect a further £75,000. Entire artistic programmes will be judged on breadth, range and quality, with emphasis on innovation and accessibility.

## Protests over advert

The Tobacco Advisory Council was censured yesterday for running an advertisement which brought objections from the Metropolitan Police, the Lancashire Constabulary and the Health Education Authority. The national press advertisement featured three cuttings about policemen being attacked and a story about a ban on officers smoking, claiming that it had become a criminal offence. The advertisement then stated: "After the bricks, bottles and bullets, shouldn't the police be spared the attentions of the anti-smoking lobby?"

## Baby upsets voting

The £5 million cuts proposed by Conservative councillors in Bradford, west Yorkshire, was approved without the expected opposition because a Labour councillor's wife went into labour. The casting vote of the mayor, which caused controversy at the last meeting, was not needed as the opposition was below full strength as Mr Michael Young was with his wife in Bradford Royal Infirmary maternity ward when the vote was being taken.

## Hospice review pledge

Mr David Mellor, Minister for Health, yesterday agreed to a review of government funding for the 120 voluntary hospices in England and Wales, which he described as "utterly haphazard". He told a Help the Hospices conference in London that some health authorities were paying 80 per cent of the running costs of local hospices, others contributed nothing.

## Health insurance tax relief 'unlikely'

By Nicholas Wood and Jill Sherman

The prospect of any tax relief for private health insurance is receding now that the Prime Minister's review of the National Health Service has entered its closing stages.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, is said to be unenthusiastic about the idea of tax relief for pensioners, agreed provisionally by ministers in the summer, and it may be dropped from the White Paper to be published at the end of next month.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, reluctantly accepted the plan when it was put forward by Mr John Moore, Mr Clarke's predecessor.

The view taken by Mrs Margaret

Thatcher, who chairs the review group ministers, will determine whether some form of tax break is implemented. She is said to favour measures aimed at encouraging individuals to top up their NHS cover.

Mr Clarke is understood to believe that while tax relief for pensioners is politically defensible, it is likely to make only a marginal difference.

Instead, he wants the review to concentrate on finding ways of making the NHS more businesslike, efficient, decentralized and responsive to patients' needs. He also wants to see closer collaboration between the NHS and private hospitals.

A fifth national heart transplant centre will be established in 1990, it was announced yesterday.

In a written parliamentary answer Mr Clarke said that funding for the

heart transplant programme would rise by more than one-third, from £6.8 million this year to £9.1 million in 1989/90.

This would provide for about 500 extra heart and heart-lung transplants and for the follow-up care of more than 350 patients who have already had successful transplants, he said. Nearly £1 million capital would also be spent next year on the four existing transplant centres at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge; Harefield Hospital, Middlesex; Freeman Hospital, Newcastle; and the Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester.

Hospitals will now have to state whether patients leave alive or dead when submitting returns for patient discharges next year.

The change was confirmed by Mrs Edwina Currie, the junior health

minister, in a parliamentary answer to Sir David Price, Tory MP for Eastleigh.

Mr Clarke made it clear yesterday that all routine talks between the Government and nursing unions would be suspended while industrial action over nurses' grading continued.

The first meeting between management and the nursing unions since negotiations broke down on October 11 was scheduled for yesterday.

But the Confederation of Health Service Employees claimed that union negotiators were only told yesterday morning that management had withdrawn from the talks.

Mr Hector MacKenzie, general secretary of Cofse and chairman of the nurses staff side, accused Mr Clarke of "wanting to put the boot in".

## The Hotel engine is to remain classified

By Robert Matthews Technology Correspondent

Britain's space plane project, Hotel, has been dealt a severe blow by a Ministry of Defence decision that details of its revolutionary engines, must remain classified.

Designed by Mr Alan Bond, the aerospace inventor, they hold the key to Hotel's claim to be able to put payloads into space more cheaply than is now possible.

Unless the engine design can be made freely available, Hotel's supporters say, companies interested in backing Hotel are unlikely to provide the £5 billion the project needs after the withdrawal of government support last July. The MoD said yesterday that it had reviewed the engine design and had decided that it must remain classified "for the foreseeable future".

The decision appears to go against a declaration by Mr Kenneth Clarke, the then minister for trade and industry, that after the end of financial backing "the Government will be supporting efforts by UK companies to find suitable collaborators".

The decision came as a surprise yesterday to British Aerospace, which has a team of around 60 working on the space plane and has been seeking collaborators on the Continent.

The MoD's action is based on its assessment of the use of the space plane's engines, code-named the RB 545, in defence applications. Hotel takes off from a runway like a conventional aircraft, using wings to provide lift and with its engines burning air fed in through intakes.

At around 86,000ft, it switches its intakes to rocket mode, burning oxygen from onboard tanks. The secret of the RB 545 lies in Mr Bond's use of efficient combustion in the upper atmosphere.

Documents obtained by *The Times* show that Hotel exploits the extreme cold of the onboard liquid hydrogen and oxygen propellants in a special heat-exchanger. So efficient is that system that in spite of its enormous power, the RB 545 weighs 30 per cent less than the engines powering Concorde.

The MoD said yesterday that its decision does not preclude companies from discussing the Hotel project.

## Police face charges in Wapping dispute

By Stewart Tessler, Crime Reporter

More than a dozen London policemen are to face charges after a lengthy provincial police investigation into allegations of assault and ill-treatment of demonstrators outside the News International plant at Wapping, east London, almost two years ago.

Yesterday the Crown Prosecution Service confirmed summonses are to be served on London officers. It refused to give the numbers of officers who will be summonsed in the next few days, their ranks, identities or the charges. But it is believed up to 20 or more officers, mainly of junior rank, could face court proceedings.

A second wave of summonses could follow, once staff in the office of the

Director of Public Prosecutions have studied reports being prepared by Northampton police. They investigated the allegations under the direction of the Police Complaints Authority.

Reports to the CPS covered alleged assaults, woundings and causing actual bodily harm by officers involved in operations outside the Wapping plant in January 1987.

The allegations came after a demonstration by a crowd of between 10,000 and 12,000 print workers and their supporters marking the anniversary of the move of News International newspapers to the Wapping plant.

About 120 officers were identified as being involved in specific incidents after there

were more than 440 complaints from 188 members of the public. They included one from Miss Kate Adie, the BBC television reporter, who alleged she was struck across the neck by a police truncheon.

Many were against mounted officers who charged demonstrators during the worst night of violence outside the plant which was the centre of picketing for nearly a year.

A special squad was formed by Northampton police under the command of Chief Superintendent David Wryko but the slow progress of the investigation has brought complaints from London police. Last week the first decisions about action on the allegations were taken at a meeting between Mr Wryko and CPS staff in London.

## Drive to design crime away

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A drive to design estates, houses and shopping centres that deter thieves, vandals and muggings was launched yesterday by Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office.

The idea that design can discourage crime has been promoted in a manual to be distributed to police forces and planning authorities across the country. It

emphasizes that designs should enable people to keep an eye on each other and their neighbourhood.

Buildings and footways should be sited for maximum visibility without sacrificing privacy.

Police want planners and architects to meet police architectural liaison officers when they are thinking of developments, to build in

crime prevention from the start. Lighting and landscaping can be potent weapons against crime, the manual says.

Mr Patten introduced the manual yesterday in a speech in Cambridge to the Institute of British Geographers.

*Police Architectural Liaison Manual of Guidance (Home Office Crime Prevention Centre, Police Headquarters, Cannon Road, Stafford ST17 0QG; £15).*

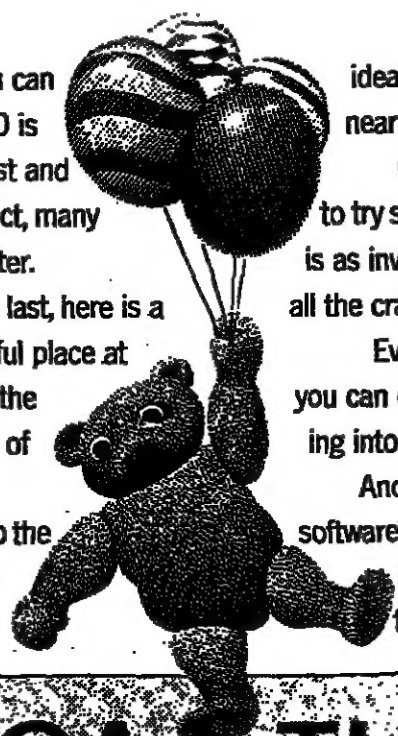


The Princess of Wales and Prince Henry arriving at the Palace Theatre, London, yesterday to see Prince William, aged six, take part in his school's Christmas carol concert.

Of all the home computers you can buy, the Commodore Amiga 500 is easily the brightest, the friendliest and definitely the most exciting. In fact, many call it the ultimate home computer.

What is certain is that at last, here is a computer that can take its rightful place at the heart of the home. Because the Amiga 500 is for every member of the family to enjoy.

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ideal even for people who haven't been near a computer before.

Of course, children are always keen to try something new. And for them, Amiga is as inviting as a clean sheet of paper and all the crayons in the rainbow.

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Use Amiga as a kind of sketchpad. Draw a picture the way you would with a pencil. Experiment with Amiga's palette of over 4000 colours and change the details you don't like. Then when you're satisfied, print it out and put it on your wall.

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But the difference with Amiga is it then goes on to help you in ways you may not have even considered. For instance, you could produce a 3D plan of your extension to talk over with a builder. Or if you decide to move, Amiga can help you reproduce your own house details, including descriptions and measurements.



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Yet, surprisingly, from just £399.99, it is as reasonably-priced as an average video recorder.

## Learning is Child's Play

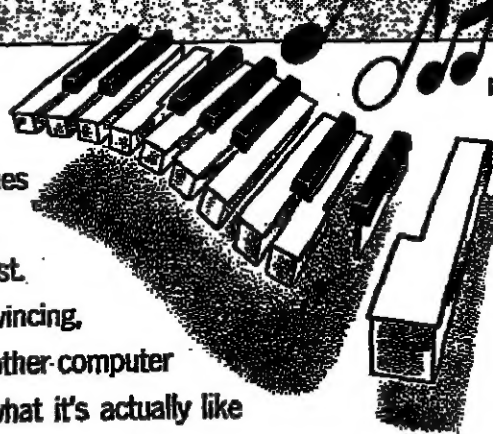
For once, a computer that claims to be friendly really is. It gives you clear instructions as you go along, making it

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And if you're in a dog-fight at Mach 2, your imagination won't have to work overtime. As you crash through the sound barrier chasing the enemy jet, it's like you're right there in the cockpit. Small wonder then that real-life test pilots use the Amiga as a training simulator. Amiga 500 gives you all the thrills and excitement of the very best arcade games.

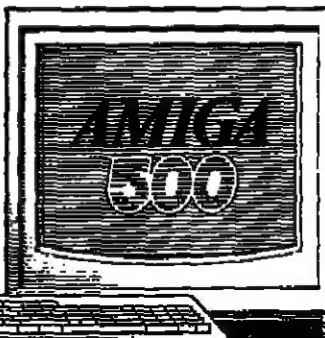


notes using the mouse and see how it is to be written on the screen. Then if you like, start adding special effects like voices, a clap of thunder, even animal noises.

If you want to hear how a choir of pigs might sound, it's easily done on Amiga. And then you might try putting music and pictures together, add graphics and speech bubbles. Suddenly, there you have it... your own cartoon or rock video.

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The following is the text of a statement released by Mr John Murray, the Irish Attorney General, in respect of Britain's request for the extradition of Patrick Ryan.

**1** The Attorney General yesterday afternoon advised the Commissioner of the Garda Síochána that warrants received by the Metropolitan Police in London for the arrest of Patrick Ryan should not be endorsed for execution in the State. The Attorney General subsequently informed the Taoiseach of the advice given by him to the Commissioner.

**2** It is a long-standing practice that the Attorney General does not issue statements about the performance of his duties, and there are sound reasons in the public interest why this should normally be so. The Attorney General would prefer not to have to depart from that practice.

However, the situation which has arisen—or, more accurately, has been created—in the present case is quite unique, and the Attorney General has reluctantly come to the conclusion that it would be less undesirable to depart from practice than to allow speculation to replace fact about a matter of very considerable public importance. He is therefore issuing this statement summarising the circumstances relevant to his decision, so that there should be no doubt in the minds of anyone, in this country or elsewhere, as to the facts of this case.

**3** At 10.50 on the night of Friday, November 25, 1988, Patrick Ryan arrived in this jurisdiction aboard a Belgian military aircraft, having been released from custody in Belgium after an extradition request from the British authorities had been refused by the Belgian authorities. In the early hours of Saturday, November 26, four warrants, issued in London in respect of Patrick Ryan, were received by the Garda Commissioner from the Metropolitan Police. In the four hours between Patrick Ryan's arrival, and the receipt of these warrants the District Court was not asked to issue a provisional arrest warrant (and it is during that period, and no other, that the law would have allowed a provisional warrant to be issued) for legal considerations, which are not relevant to this decision. Replacement documentation, correcting certain defects, was received from the British authorities on Sunday, November 27.

**4** Consideration of this case involved questions of law and questions of fact. The questions of law included matters of English law, Belgian law, and complex legal issues concerning the law of conspiracy, the extra-territoriality of offences in English law and in Irish law, corresponding offences, and other matters. The questions of fact included the confidential material which had been supplied to the Attorney General by the British Attorney General on Friday evening, November 25.

**5** The necessary consideration and examination of these issues by the Attorney General, with his legal advisers, commenced without delay and

continued as expeditiously as was consistent with the care required in such matters.

**6** On Thursday evening December 1 further information and clarification was sought from the British Attorney General concerning the material which he had furnished. This was supplied late the following evening, Friday, December 2.

**7** Between the Monday and the Thursday certain material published in Britain, in newspapers and on radio and television, came to the attention of the Attorney General. He also became aware of the nature of references to the case made in the British Parliament. These matters are more specifically referred to later in this statement.

**8** The Extradition (Amendment) Act, 1987, requires the Attorney General to direct that a warrant for the extradition of a person from the State shall not be endorsed unless, having considered such information as he deems appropriate, he is of opinion that there is a clear intention to prosecute that person, founded on the existence of sufficient evidence.

Even before the passing of the 1987 Act it was part of Irish law that any application for extradition should be founded on an intention to prosecute based on a sufficiency of then existing evidence, and that otherwise extradition proceedings would be an abuse of the process of the Court. Before the passing of the Act therefore it would have been improper for the Attorney General to initiate or permit the initiation of proceedings for extradition if he became aware that the then intention of the requesting country was not to prosecute but was, for example, to obtain the person for questioning. The existence of such a state of affairs would not normally have been apparent to the Attorney General, and the 1987 Act now requires that he obtain sufficient information to satisfy himself regarding these matters and, if not so satisfied, to direct that the warrant shall not be endorsed by the Garda Commissioner.

**9** Independent of the provisions of the Extradition (Amendment) Act, 1987, the Attorney General must ensure that the Court complies with all other requirements of the law and Constitution of the State. These include, for example, such matters as that the offences charged are offences known to the law, and correspond with offences under Irish law, and that the supporting legal documentation is correct and in order. He must also be satisfied that the proceedings do not otherwise infringe the requirements of law or the Constitution or involve an abuse of the legal process. The Attorney General is designated by the Constitution as the chief law officer of the State and is the guardian of the public interest. It is he who bears ultimate responsibility for the initiation and conduct of extradition proceedings.



Mr John Murray: concerned that reports came from an official source.

**10** In the present case the extradition documents concerned four offences, specified in four separate warrants. In respect of the charges in two of the warrants the Attorney General, having considered such information as he deemed appropriate, has formed the opinion that there is, on the part of the relevant prosecuting authority, a clear intention to prosecute and that such intention is founded on the existence of sufficient evidence. In the light of what follows he has not found it necessary to reach any final conclusion in regard to the charges in the other two warrants.

**11** Before referring to the matters which have been published in Britain concerning the case, it is necessary to record that this is not the first occasion when material has been published in Britain concerning a pending extradition case, although in no previous instance have the prejudicial statements attained the pitch and extent of those in the present case.

Earlier this year the Attorney General had cause for serious concern arising from reports on British television of the events surrounding the execution of certain extradition warrants and the charges to which they related.

British television news reports showed the scenes of the aftermath of a number of explosions which had occurred in Britain previously and linked them to the charges on the warrants. It was clear that these reports were based, at least in part, on information that had come from official sources. The Attorney General was extremely concerned at these developments, which he considered to be highly improper

and potentially damaging to the integrity of the extradition process. He therefore telephoned the British Attorney General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, on the same day and raised these specific matters. The Attorney General does not propose to go into the details of what was said. However, he thinks it proper, and necessary, to say that he drew the British Attorney General's attention to the objectionable nature of any prejudicial material being published in connection with a pending application for extradition and prior to trial and to the fact that this was a matter which he is obliged to take into account when exercising his responsibilities arising from a request for extradition.

**12** The Attorney General viewed the publication of the material in that case with such concern that he requested the Garda Commissioner and others to conduct inquiries as to the source from which the information had come. As a result of the inquiries he concluded that the information had come from official sources in London. (It should be said that there is no question of the Crown Prosecution Service being the source.) While the Attorney General was satisfied that the television reports in question, although prejudicial, were not such as materially to affect the due process of law, he was deeply disturbed that that process could be put at risk by the publication of such material and therefore he brought his concerns to the attention of the British Attorney General on the day in question.

**13** In the present case also, matter has been published in Britain which the Attorney General has been obliged to consider. Before reaching a conclusion with regard to these matters the Attorney General directed that a full report be prepared for his consideration on the widespread publicity given to this case in Britain. Such a report was prepared and was submitted to the Attorney General. With the assistance of this report and other information available to him the Attorney General has had the opportunity of examining the depth and breadth of the material published in Britain to an extent probably not possible for most people.

**14** The material in question consists of references to Patrick Ryan which have appeared in newspapers, particularly newspapers with a large circulation, and on radio and television, over a protracted period. They consisted, inter alia, of attacks on Patrick Ryan's general character, often expressed in intemperate language and frequently in the form of extravagant worded headlines, and also assertions of his guilt of the offences comprised in the warrants—and, indeed, assertions of his guilt of other offences in respect of which no charges have been brought.

Many of these statements were expressed in a form which would lead the public to believe that they came, directly or indirectly, from sources who were in possession of facts which conclusively established their truth. It is also clearly apparent that a wide range of reports contained or were based on information which could only have originated from some official source.

**15** An equally serious matter is the making of certain statements in the House of Commons. The tone, tenor and contents of much of what was said carried an assumption or inference of guilt on the part of the person named in the warrants issued by the Court in London. Many members scrupulously avoided saying anything prejudicial. The prejudicial statements were, perhaps, epitomized by the making of a direct attribution of guilt by one backbench member on the very first day on which the matter was mentioned and subsequently by the hostile reception received by another member from a significant number of backbenchers because he qualified the word "terrorist" with the word "alleged". The House of Commons proceedings were widely and fully reported in the media. They raised a case to a unique status and can only have intensified the impact and lasting effect on members of the public of what was being published in the written and broadcasting media. Further, the statements in the House of Commons must, because of their origin, carry particular weight with potential jurors.

**16** That being so, the Attorney General has had to consider whether it is open to him to ignore the effect of these statements on members of a jury which would try Patrick Ryan if he were extradited to Britain. He has concluded that he cannot ignore it.

Every citizen has a constitutional right to a fair trial. The Supreme Court has made it clear that the Extradition Act 1965 ought not to be operated in such a manner as to violate the constitutional rights of those affected by its operation, and that even where the expressed statutory requirements have been fulfilled, the Act may not be administered or applied in a way which would infringe such constitutional rights. The right to a fair trial includes a right to protection against the creation of prejudice or animosity in the minds of potential jurors such as would effectively deprive a person of the right to a non-biased trial. The presumption of innocence is not a procedural rule governing the onus of proof at a trial. It is a fundamental principle of substantive law.

Any decision to prosecute implies no more than that there is an issue to be tried as to whether the person charged is guilty or not guilty.

**17** In the opinion of the Attorney General the effect of the material which has been published has, manifestly and inescapably, been to create such prejudice and hostility to Patrick Ryan that, were he to be extradited to Britain, it would not be possible for a jury to approach the issue of his guilt or innocence free from bias. Having regard to the extreme nature and extent of the prejudicial material published, the Attorney General has had to conclude that such prejudice is irredeemable. No direction to the jury by the trial judge to ignore the prejudicial matter to which they have been exposed could be effective in removing the bias which has been created.

**18** That being so, the Attorney General is of the opinion that it would be improper, and an abuse of the process of the courts, to initiate extradition proceedings in this case. The initiation of such proceedings, in the face of the objective evidence before the Attorney General in the case, would be to operate legislation in a manner which would violate the constitutional and fundamental rights of the person affected by its operation.

The due process of law is intended to do justice in each individual case. It would be against the public interest to abandon that principle for the sake of broader policy considerations.

**19** The Attorney General wishes to emphasize that his decision does not involve the formation by him of any view on the system of justice of the requesting State. The question of a fair trial arises only because of the unique circumstances of this particular case and the issue concerns only the capacity of any system of trial jury, however fair the system might be, to provide a fair trial in those circumstances.

The Attorney General expects, and hopes, that the case will remain a unique one and that the particular circumstances that required him to arrive at this decision will not be repeated.

The process of extradition is, and remains, part of the law of the State. It has and will continue to be used.

**20** This, however, does not end the matter. The charges which have been brought against Patrick Ryan are of a most serious kind, and they should be investigated by a court. The Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act, 1976 provides a means whereby certain serious offences committed outside this jurisdiction may be tried here. Such a trial may, under Irish law, take place before a court of three judges without a jury. Heavy penalties are prescribed by Irish law for those offences.

The Attorney General has requested the British Attorney General to have the evidence available to the British prosecuting authorities in this case examined with a view to the identification of all charges which could be tried in this jurisdiction.

Office of the Attorney General  
Dublin  
December 13, 1988

# 'Prejudice would prevent fair trial'

## Ryan snub marks diplomatic nadir

By Jamie Detmer, Irish Affairs Correspondent

The collapse of Britain's efforts to bring Father Patrick Ryan, the Tipperary-born priest, before a British court on terrorist charges marks the lowest point yet in the recent turbulent history of extradition arrangements between Britain and Ireland.

For many Conservative MPs it confirms a long-held suspicion that Dublin governments—almost regardless of whether they are Fine Gael or Fianna Fail ones—will obstruct extradition of IRA suspects for political reasons. Yesterday's decision by Mr John Murray, the Irish Attorney General, not to extradite Father Ryan in spite of there being sufficient evidence for a prosecution, will have done nothing to dispel the suspicion.

The passing of a new extradition Act by the Dail last December appeared to herald a new phase in the battle to deprive republican terrorists of a haven from the British security forces.

But in the last 12 months not one IRA member has been extradited under the 1987 legislation. Soon after it was passed, the British Government refused to operate the

Act because it felt that the role of the Irish Attorney General in deciding whether to clear the extradition warrants was unhelpful. After talks and Irish assurances the British Attorney-General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, agreed to use the legislation.

But last summer the extradition arrangements suffered a major reversal when an Irish district court ruled that Patrick McVeigh, a senior IRA man, could not be handed over to the British because there was insufficient evidence to identify him as the man Scotland Yard wanted. There was a Irish diplomatic row as Irish law officers had assured their British counterparts that the McVeigh case would go ahead smoothly.

There are four men held in Irish prisons awaiting extradition. They are: Owen Carron, the former Sinn Féin MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone; Dermot Finucane; Paul Kane; and James Pius Clarke—all of whom escaped from the Maze prison.

They are all appealing against district court rulings which can take up to two years to complete.

## MPs call for drive to reduce infant deaths

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

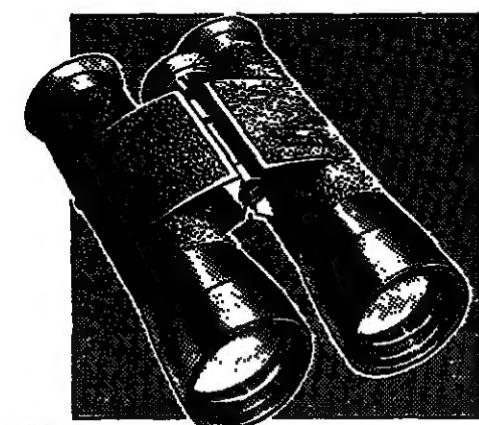
An all-party committee of MPs called yesterday for a government drive to reduce infant deaths, which were markedly higher in areas of social deprivation and high unemployment.

A report from the Conservative-controlled social services committee said that Britain's infant mortality rate compared badly with other developed countries.

In 1986 the rate among babies under 12 months had risen for the first time since 1970, though it had fallen slightly again in 1987. At the

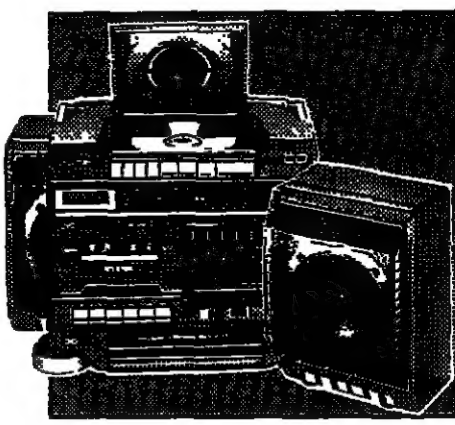
same time, the reduction in deaths among babies aged under one month had slowed. Figures for 1987 showed that the perinatal mortality rate in Britain was 6.9 per 1,000 and the infant mortality rate 9.1 per 1,000. Twelve developed countries had a lower infant mortality rate, and Japan, Canada and Finland had a rate of below six per 1,000.

In 1986, 12 district health authorities recorded 12 infant deaths per 1,000 or higher. Perinatal, Neonatal and Infant Mortality. Social Services Committee Stationery Office: £8.80.



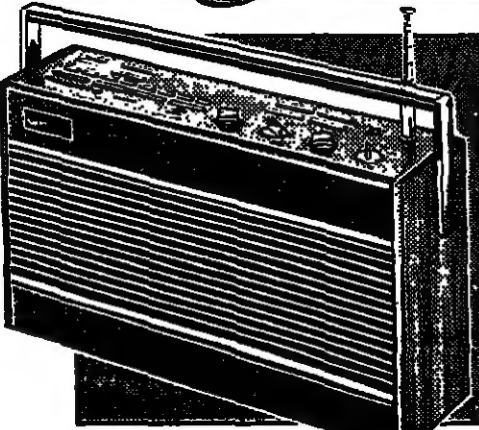
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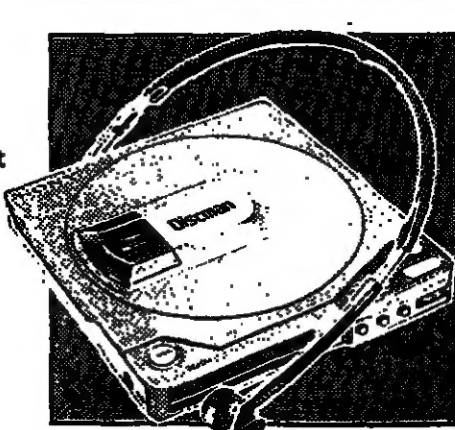
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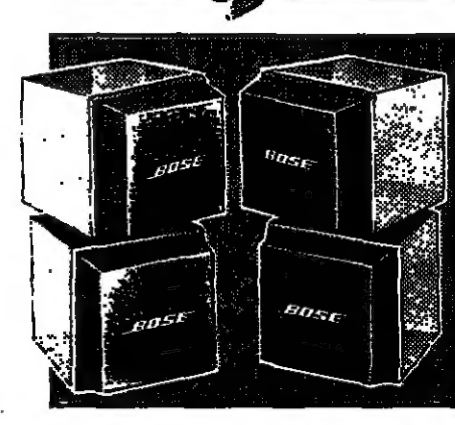
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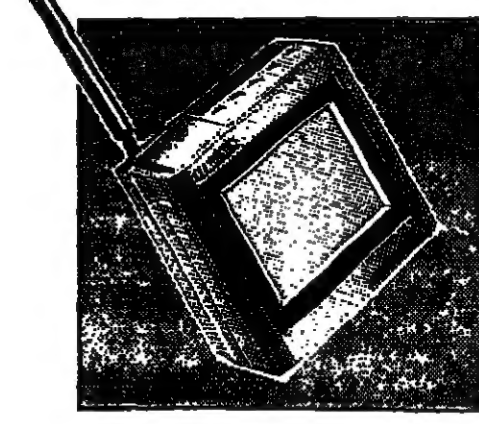
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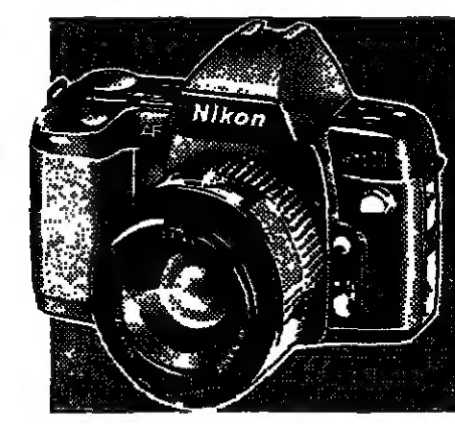
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# Mackay move will mean more women can become judges

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Measures announced yesterday by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, to appoint more solicitors as judges are likely to lead to more female judges.

At present, the circuit bench, for instance, is largely recruited from the Bar. Only one in 10 of the 400 circuit judges was originally a solicitor; the rest were barristers.

Under a two-year pilot scheme, committees are being set up in each of the six circuits in England and Wales to advise Lord Mackay on the suitability for judicial appointment of solicitors in their area. If the scheme is successful, it will be extended.

Lord Mackay said: "I want to ensure that judicial appointments are made from the best available candidates, from as wide a range as possible of well qualified applicants."

Appointing judges is "one of my most important tasks", he said. "I am particularly concerned to ensure, when considering those about to set foot on what is typically the first rung of the judicial ladder — the part-time appointment — that suitable candidates are not overlooked."

Only 27 out of the 633 recorders are women; and only 17 out of the 400 circuit judges, largely because of their

relatively small numbers in the pool from which candidates are drawn.

The pilot scheme will concentrate on the part-time posts of deputy county court registrars, assistant recorders, acting stipendiary magistrates and justices in various tribunals. Most full time posts, such as to the circuit bench, are made from candidates who have a successful record in part time roles.

One of the problems in recruiting solicitors has been the size of the profession, some 50,000 compared with 6,000 practising barristers. The smaller numbers for the Bar means that it is already possible to carry out an annual review of barristers of appropriate seniority for consideration for appointment as assistant recorders.

The pilot scheme will cover Nottingham, Newcastle upon Tyne, and the areas of the Liverpool Law Society and Birkenhead; of the Holborn Law Society, of the West Wales Law Society and of the Devon and Exeter Law Society.

The committees, to be chaired by the local courts administrators, will consist of local people best able to give advice about solicitors in the area, such as county court registrars, magistrates, jus-

tices' clerks, and prominent solicitors.

The Lord Chancellor's policy is to appoint to every judicial post the candidate who appears to him best qualified to fill it regardless of party, gender, religion or ethnic origin.

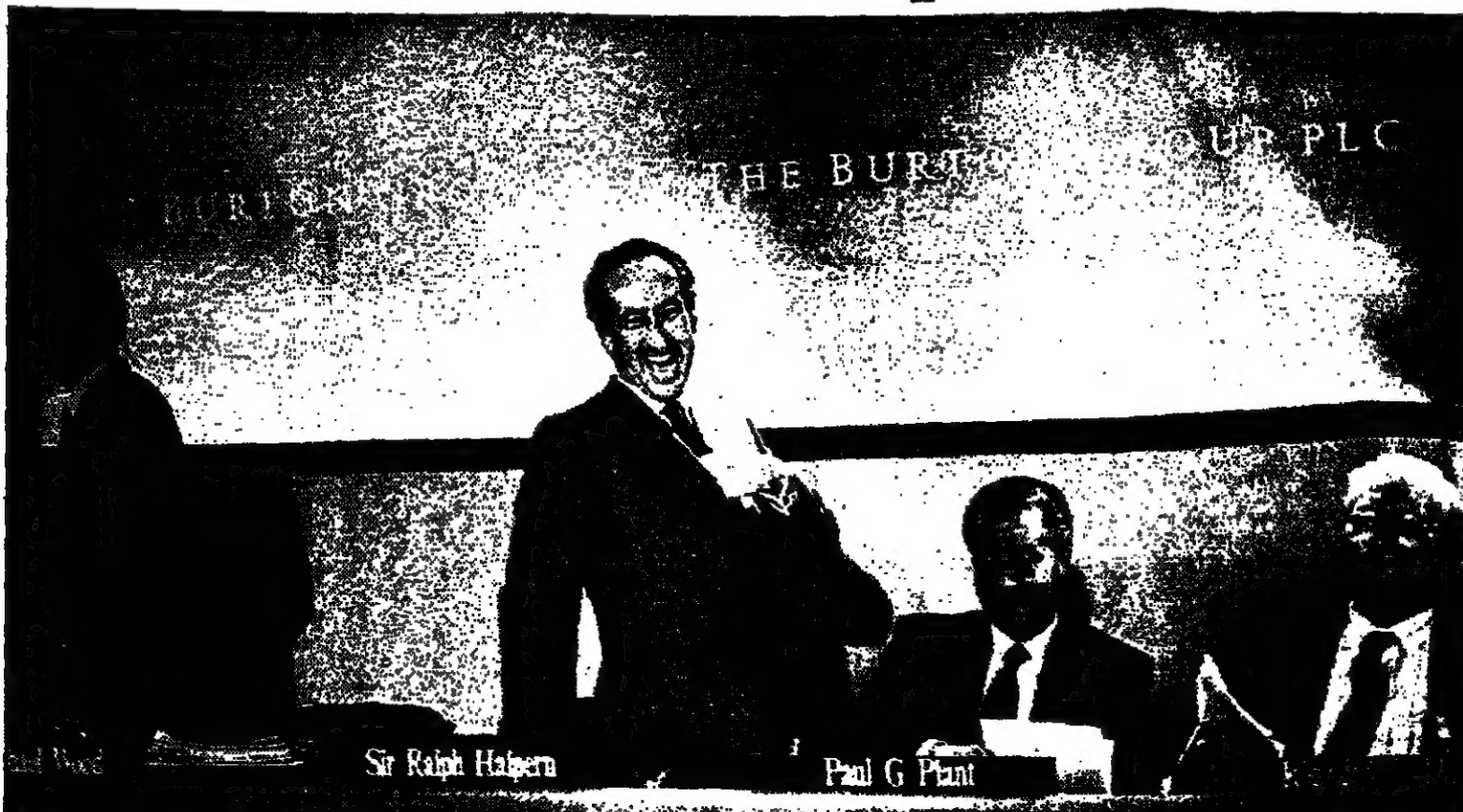
He is advised by the Judicial Appointments Group of the Lord Chancellor's department which ensures he has all the information — both factual information from candidates and opinions about them — for a "fair and informed judgement about every appointment".

In the case of all permanent, and also an increasing proportion of part time, judicial appointments, candidates are also interviewed at least once and sometimes more often. Views about the candidates are also sought of from other judges and lawyers.

A big rise in the number of women solicitors, who now account for almost half of all those admitted to the profession, is shown in the Law Society's annual statistical report today.

This year the percentage of women admitted reached 45 per cent and looks set within a short time to exceed that for men. The quality of women entrants is consistently higher than that of men.

# Press awards for Times photographers



Sir Ralph Halpern

Paul G. Plant

The Times photographers have won two big awards in the British Press Photographers of the Year competition.

Nick Rogers won the Features category with a picture (above) of an exuberant Sir Ralph Halpern at a meeting with members of the Burton Group board.

James Morgan, aged 29, won the award for most promising newcomer with a picture of the audience at the Nelson Mandela concert at Wembley stadium. He was also commended for a portrait of Sir Robert Haslam, chairman of British Coal.

Peter Trivnor, also of The Times, was runner-up in Features with his picture (left) of a baby gorilla and its keeper taken at Howlett's zoo, in Kent.

Chris Harris was commended in the same category for his picture, Pilgrims in the Rain, taken during a downpour at an open air service in Walsingham, Norfolk.

Photographer of the Year was David Cairns of Today with a portfolio of pictures including a gunman firing shots at an IRA funeral in Belfast, which also won the news picture of the year award.

The awards, considered the premier prizes for press photography, were sponsored by British Telecom.

# Armenian concert attracts musicians

By Andrew Billen, Arts Correspondent

Musicians from around the world have responded to news of the "Musicians for Armenia" concert, which is being held at the Barbican Hall to raise funds for victims of the Armenia earthquake appeal.

Among those featured at the concert on Saturday night will be André Previn, Mstislav Rostropovich and James Galway.

Thousands of pounds were pledged in donations yesterday from clients of the British Association of Concert Agents, which is organizing the event. One was for £8,000.

Mr Joesk van Walsum, chairman of the organizing committee, said yesterday he had to turn down offers to perform from more than 50 artists as well as the London Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic.

Television rights have been sold to Holland and Australia and organizers are hoping for a live prime time transmission to the United States.

British Airways has offered to fly Yuri Bashmet — who will play the viola in the slow

movement of Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante — from the Soviet Union.

It was also announced yesterday that the Soviet Ambassador would attend the concert, which is being sponsored by The Times, and will be broadcast live on BBC 2 and Radio 3.

The concert, from 11pm to 12.30 am, includes music by Beethoven, Debussy, Villa Lobos and songs by Tchaikovsky.

Tickets are available at £25, £15 and £10 (including donation) from the Barbican booking office (01 638 8891).

Rostropovich announced yesterday that he had postponed a flight to India in order to give a Bach cello concert with all funds going to Aid Armenia, the official British Armenian Charity.

The concert, at Central Hall Westminster at 8pm on Friday will be his first solo recital in Britain for 20 years.

Earthquake, page 10

# Blakelock death appeal fails

By Mark Ellis

The three men convicted of murdering Police Constable Keith Blakelock in the 1985 Broadwater Farm riot in Tottenham, north London, failed in the Court of Appeal yesterday in their attempt to challenge the verdict.

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Steyn, dismissed applications for leave to appeal against the convictions.

He described the convictions as "safe and satisfactory" and praised Mr Justice Hodgson, the trial judge, for his fairness and "impeccable" summing up, in the case of Winston Silcott, after the 40-day hearing at the Central

Criminal Court in March last year.

Lord Lane said that fresh evidence about the level of the intelligence and "sugarsibility" of Engin Raghip, aged 20 when sentenced — whom a psychologist had described as having a mental age of 10 or 11 — would not have affected the eventual outcome.

"It seems to us that the fact that this young man is more susceptible to suggestion than others does not make him abnormal mentally, nor does it put him outside the ordinary experience of a jury in assessing a fellow human being", he said.

Silcott, aged 27 at the time, was jailed for life with a

recommendation he serve a minimum of 30 years, and Raghip, of Wood Green, north London, and Mark Braithwaite, also aged 20, of Islington, north London, were both jailed for life.

Lord Lane rejected claims that Silcott's interview with police should not have gone before a jury because it was "tenuous" and insufficient to justify a proper conviction.

In the case of Braithwaite, Lord Lane said there was no question of alleged imbalance in the way the judge had dealt with his case and added that the judge had made "a great deal less of the strength of the prosecution case than he might have done".



# Strike at schools over cuts

More than 3,500 members of the National Union of Teachers took part in a half-day strike in Bradford, West Yorkshire, yesterday in protest at the Conservative-controlled council's plan to cut spending by £5.8 million. A union spokesman said that most schools were affected and some closed when teachers walked out at lunchtime. A council spokesman was not available for comment.

# \$500,000 win

Damages of £525,000 were awarded yesterday to Carrie Anne Marsden, aged 11, who was left handicapped because of lack of oxygen at birth. The award, made in the High Court in Manchester, was against Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn, Lancashire.

# Jets air miss

A passenger plane with 96 people on board was yesterday reported to have come within 200 yards of three RAF jets. The British Midland Airways pilot said he could see the military aircraft as his DC9 was flying 15 miles south west of Teesside airport.

# Road toll falls

There were 5,125 deaths on British roads last year — the lowest figure since 1954. A Department of Transport report says there were also fewer injuries in 1987 than in 1986.

# Mail safe

The threat of disruption to Christmas mail vanished yesterday when the Union of Communication Workers decided there would be no further industrial action until the new year.

# TONIGHT IS CHRISTMAS EVE at the Coliseum

Nigel Hawthorne plays a sinister medium in *The Shovel* and Anthony Hopkins returns to his Welsh roots in *Heartland*, the story of a farmer who takes on the bureaucratic might of the EEC.

# House log-book scheme unveiled

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

A log-book scheme for homeowners, recording the history of their house and its maintenance, was launched yesterday by the London estate agents, John D Wood.

The *Maintenance Record* is intended to show a homeowner's care of his property, like a car service record, and also to provide a way that homeowners can be reassured that their principal asset is in good order.

Its launch comes when there is growing concern about house surveys and whether the vendor of a property should tell a prospective buyer about defects.

Last month the Law Commission's standing conveyancing committee recommended the ending of the custom of caveat emptor (let the buyer beware). It wants the vendor put under a positive duty to disclose all material facts about the property.

The committee's report *Honesty or Suspicion in Conveyancing?* is part of its continuing examination of the conveyancing process intended to speed up and simplify house buying and selling.

It said: "Conveyancing should become a co-operative and quicker transaction involving honesty, and open-

ness in negotiations."

The report received a mixed welcome. It was applauded for its intentions, but some agents and professional bodies believe that it is unworkable, that buyers will not trust a vendor's survey, and that it would lead only to a duplication of surveys.

Under the John D Wood scheme, devised by Mr David Nicholson, their surveyor, a homeowner pays from £350 a year, depending on the size of the house, for two inspections of the property. The firm's surveyors will prepare a detailed report on the condition of the house, recommending action where necessary. They believe that this will ensure that the property remains in good condition, and that the record will help when the house is sold. So far about 35 owners have joined the scheme.

Another aid for homeowners was announced last month by Nationwide Anglia Building Society who have introduced a video structural survey so that the owner can see exactly what is wrong with a house or flat. It is estimated to cost about £50 more than the average of £300 for a survey.

Leading article, page 17

# Teachers' transfer to go ahead

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Plans to move eight teachers from a north London primary school, which was criticized by inspectors for failing to provide good education, are to go ahead in spite of opposition from governors.

The Inner London Education Authority said yesterday that the governors' vote to reject the plan at Highbury Quadrant School, Islington, would not stop it bringing in new staff.

Mr David Mallen, Ilea education officer, said he had asked the governors on Monday night to consider the plan or propose alternatives. "Unfortunately, their solution is more of the same," he said.

He criticized local teachers' union representatives who had threatened to strike.

The authority came under fresh attack yesterday after Mr Neil Fletcher, its Labour leader, revealed that seven other schools are giving "cause for concern".

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Such public breast-beating about a number of unnamed Ilea schools will cast a cloud over all Ilea schools."

Letters, page 17

# BBC's £80m TV season

# Drama and comedy abound

The BBC unveiled its £80 million package for the winter season yesterday that includes 1,600 hours of new viewing.

A *Play On One* series will feature Elaine Paige and Griff Rhys Jones in *A View of Harry Rigg*, the tale of a troubled social worker. Miss Paige will also star with Diana Rigg in the black comedy *Unexplained Laughter*.

Nigel Hawthorne plays a sinister medium in *The Shovel* and Anthony Hopkins returns to his Welsh roots in *Heartland*, the story of a farmer who takes on the bureaucratic might of the EEC.

A new Screen Two season includes Lynn Redgrave in *Death of a Son*, Tony Marchant's film drama, *Michael Williams in Angel Voices*, Stephen Wakelam's Beatles period drama, and Eli Wallach and John Shea who head the cast of *The Impossible Spy*, a Middle East

espionage thriller.

The second *See for Yourself* report, introduced by Sue Lawley, will feature a Lancashire licence payer who turns television detective to see how her money and that of 19 million other viewers is spent.

New comedy series feature Hannah Gordon and Peter Egan in *Joint Account*, a role reversal marital comedy; Julia Watson and Natalie Ogle as two unlikely friends who start a gourmet cookery service in *A Touch of Spice*; and Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie in their first BBC2 series.

Del Boy and the Trotter family are back in *Only Fools and Horses*, as are *Life With Out George*, *Foreign Bodies* and *Naked Video*.

Red noses will be worn again for another night of *Comic Relief* in March.

Also joining the entertainment line-up are Jasper Carrott, Paul Daniels, Bob

Monkhouse, Jimmy Savile and among Terry Wogan's guests in the new year will be Bob Hope.

Clive James, who switched from independent television to the BBC this year, gets two series — an off-beat look at global media in *Saturday Night Cine* and *Postcard*, a tour of Rio, Chicago and Paris.

The thirtieth anniversary of Buddy Holly's death will be affectionately commemorated in *Words of Love*.

Dirty Den, the rogue of *EastEnders*, will help the residents of Albert Square to celebrate their fourth anniversary in February and Leslie Grantham, who plays the role, will also star in *Nightwatch*, a tense underworld drama made by BBC Northern Ireland.

Jonathan Hyde plays Edward Marshall Hall, the brilliant defence lawyer, in an eight-part series of his famous cases in *Shadow of the Noose*.



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WORLD ROUNDUP

## Protesters battle police in Warsaw

Warsaw (Reuters) — Polish anti-government demonstrators threw percussion grenades, stones and tear gas canisters at riot police in central Warsaw yesterday in a bitter protest marking the seventh anniversary of the country's 1981 martial law crackdown.

Witnesses said that the protesters attacked the police, punching and kicking them in the worst hand-to-hand fighting in the capital since the grim days of martial law in the early eighties. Solidarity sources said that thousands of people also joined a protest against martial law in Wrocław, in western Poland, marching through the city to its former local Solidarity headquarters.

The sources said police did not intervene in Wrocław and the demonstrators dispersed peacefully. But in the eastern city of Lublin, several students were detained after hundreds demonstrated against martial law, the sources added.

## Visit for Mandela

Johannesburg — Mrs Winnie Mandela visited her husband yesterday for the first time since he was moved from a nursing home to a bungalow in the grounds of a prison at Paarl, 35 miles from Cape Town (Ray Kennedy writes). The authorities have said that Mandela can have "unlimited access" to his family but remains a prisoner. Afterwards Mrs Mandela reiterated that she would take up only the visiting privileges allowed when her husband was behind bars.

## Van Gogh's theory

The Hague (Reuters) — Thieves who stole three Van Gogh paintings, worth tens of millions of pounds each, would find it almost impossible to sell them and may seek a ransom instead, police and art experts said. The thieves made off with the 19th century Dutch artist's own favourite work, *The Potato Eaters*, and two other paintings, *Withering Sunflowers* and *Weaver's Loom and Weaver*, from the Kroller-Mueller museum in the Hoge Veluwe national park.

## Drug in Onassis body

Buenos Aires (Reuters) — Forensic tests revealed traces of the barbiturate opiodone in the body of Christina Onassis, the shipping millionaire's wife who died here on November 19, aged 37, Argentine Federal Judge Daniel Piotti said yesterday. He added that it was not yet known how much of the drug was present. Medical sources said opiodone was a sedative that could be fatal in large doses. The cause of Miss Onassis's death was given as excessive fluid in the lungs.

## Arafat's address to the UN draws united Israeli condemnation Shamir attacks 'act of deception'

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Speaking for once on behalf of the entire Israeli Government, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, last night dismissed the speech of Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations in Geneva as "a monumental act of deception".

He said it was nothing but a mirage seeking to create an illusion of moderation. The PLO chief, he said, had merely repeated in another way his organization's basic position.

Jerusalem (AP) — Hamdan Najjar, a Palestinian aged 25, grabbed a gun from a Jewish settler in the West Bank yesterday and used it to kill him and another Israeli before being shot dead by Israeli soldiers. The incident occurred at the village of Burin, near the settlement of Be'erakha, about the time Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, was addressing the United Nations.

which was rejection of Israel. He warned the United States against doing anything to encourage the PLO, saying this would only act against peace and encourage violence.

As far as Israel was concerned, he said very firmly: "We shall not negotiate with the PLO under any conditions or recognize it."

It was, he said, nothing but a terrorist organization committed to bringing about the end of Israel's existence.

He said any countries in the area which seriously wanted

peace had only to start direct negotiations with Israel, a country which desired to live in peace with its neighbours.

Israeli leaders had been advised about the text of the speech during the day by Mr Thomas Pickering, the American Ambassador, who had been told what Mr Arafat would say by the State Department and had hinted that the US was prepared to accept the speech as a basis for opening contacts with the PLO.

To head off any trouble in the occupied territories to coincide with the speech, Israeli security forces totally sealed off the Gaza Strip and carried out a series of searches and raids on villages in the West Bank, making some arrests.

GENEVA: The head of the Israeli mission to the United Nations, Ambassador Moshe Raviv, said here yesterday that Israel refuses "to be impressed by ambiguity and double talk" (Philip Jacobson writes).

The country's security and wellbeing could not depend on "vague formulations and evasive rhetoric".

He emphasized that Israel took note of any sign and any nuance of moderation in the Arab world but repeated his Government's claim that the PLO and Mr Arafat have for more than two decades been "the biggest impediment to peace".

It was their reign of indiscriminate terror against Israelis and Arabs, said Mr Raviv, that had prevented any



Mr Yasser Arafat, the Israeli permanent representative to the United Nations, dismissing Mr Arafat's speech last night as an "exercise in ambiguity".

progress on the Palestinian issue. "The question that people are asking is 'are we witnessing any change now?'"

In the view of Mr Raviv's Government, the Palestine National Council and Mr Arafat are "wrestling with

reality in the wrong way". To Israel, the unilateral act of declaring a Palestinian state was yet another mistake in a long succession of errors and an additional obstacle to peace.

"There is no room for

Palestinian state, irredentist and non-viable, between Israel and Jordan.

"As in the past, the PLO is setting an unattainable objective in order to make a reasonable solution impossible," Mr Raviv said.

## 76 states recognize 'Palestine'

Tunis (Reuters) — The Palestine Liberation Organization says 76 countries have recognized the independent Palestinian state declared by Mr Yasser Arafat in Algiers last month.

A PLO list, issued here yesterday, includes several countries which have said they support the state but have stopped short of recognition. The listed countries are:

Arab states: Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, North Yemen, South Yemen, Iraq, Djibouti, Sudan, Somalia, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman.

African countries: Mali, Gambia, Niger, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Zambia, Seychelles, Nigeria, Guinea, Burkina-Faso, Comoros, Ghana, Mauritius, Cape Verde, Tanzania, Madagascar, Gabon, Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Togo, Chad, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Congo, Burundi.

Other countries: Soviet Union, China, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria, Vietnam, Mongolia, Cambodia, Laos, Albania, Cuba, North Korea, Malta, Cyprus, Nicaragua, Turkey, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Brunei, Afghanistan, Nepal.

The list does not include São Tomé and Príncipe, which announced recognition only on Monday.

## Curb on parties angers forces

By Michael Evans  
Defence Correspondent

A Ministry of Defence ban on all singing and dancing at Christmas parties held by British servicemen in West Germany, in deference to the six killed at Remscheid last week after an American jet crashed into a street, has caused uproar and demands for compensation from the 70,000 soldiers and airmen with British Forces Germany.

The Ministry sent an urgent signal last Friday evening after a request from the German Government for a ban on "all festivities" until after the memorial service for the victims of the crash, due to be held tomorrow. Most Christmas parties, including special parties for children, had been planned for the next day, Saturday. One party, in Berlin, was actually in full swing when the signal arrived. "The music had to stop there and then."

Sources revealed that 350 parties had to be cancelled at the last moment, at a cost of more than £500,000. "Apart

Bonn (Reuters) — A senior West German defence official, Herr Peter Kurt Würzbach, a State Secretary, is to be dismissed for oversteering his authority and halting low-altitude flights after the Remscheid accident without consulting the Defence Minister, Herr Rupert Scholz.

from all the food and the caterers, everyone had booked bands: servicemen had been contributing towards their parties for months," the sources said.

Yesterday a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence admitted that the ban had caused a "lot of steam" and there were demands for compensation. "They want to know who is going to pay for it all," the spokesman said.

The initial request came from Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, during a meeting of Nato's North Atlantic Council in Brussels at the end of last week.

Sources said that Herr Genscher passed a note to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and to the foreign ministers of the US, Canada, France, Belgium and the Netherlands, all of whom have troops stationed in Germany.

Herr Genscher explained that a decision had been taken to ban all festivities in German barracks until December 15, and to stop low flying until January 2. He asked if Britain and the other Nato members would follow suit as an act of mourning for the six dead.

Sir Geoffrey passed on the request to the Ministry of Defence when he returned to London on Friday afternoon.

Sources said that Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, was away and the decision was taken on Friday evening by junior ministers.

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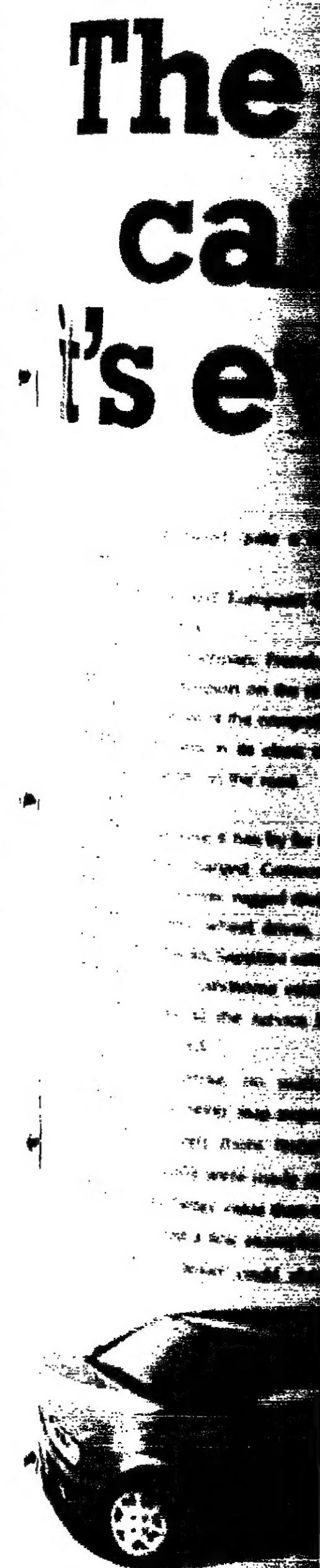
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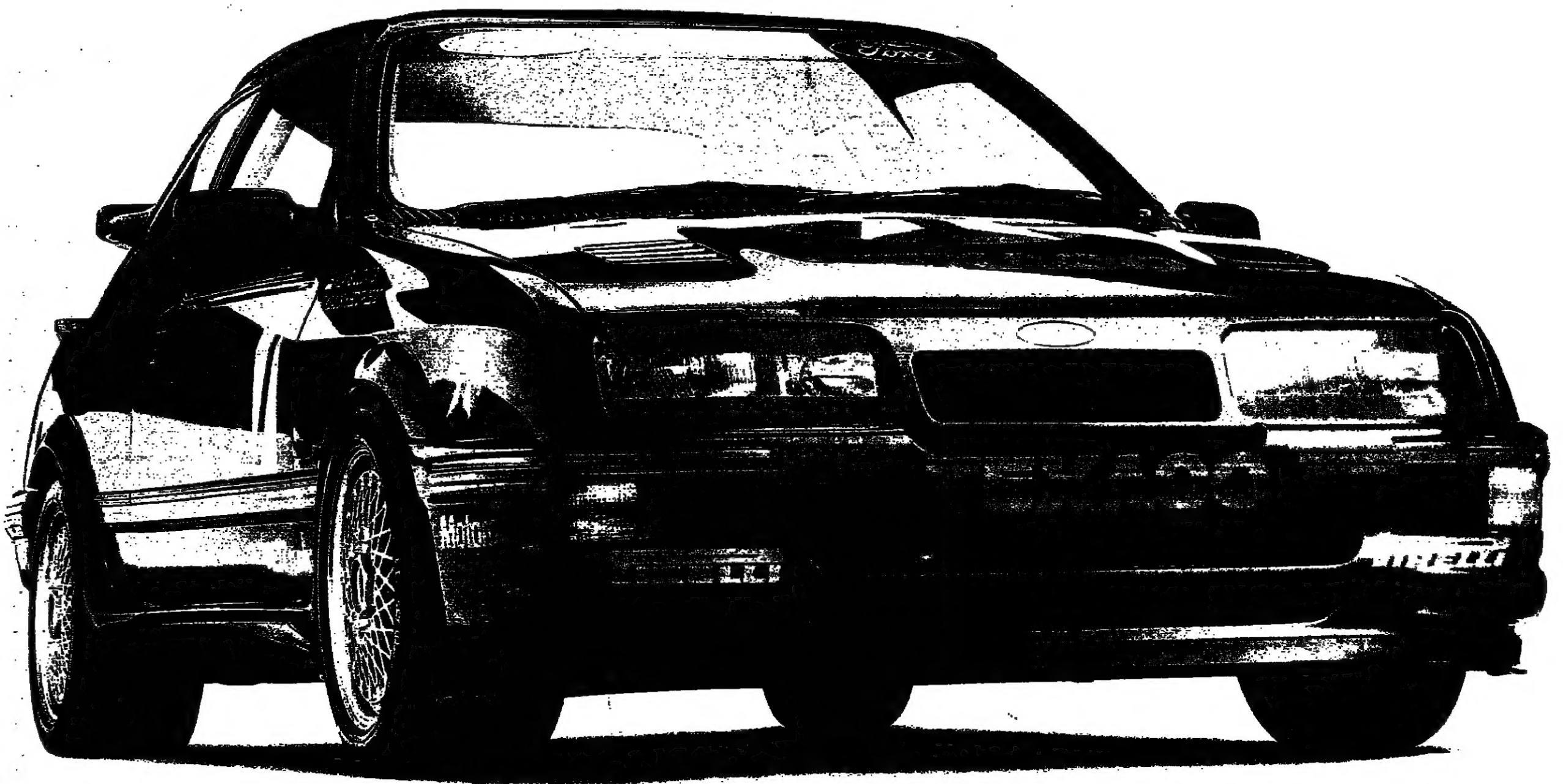
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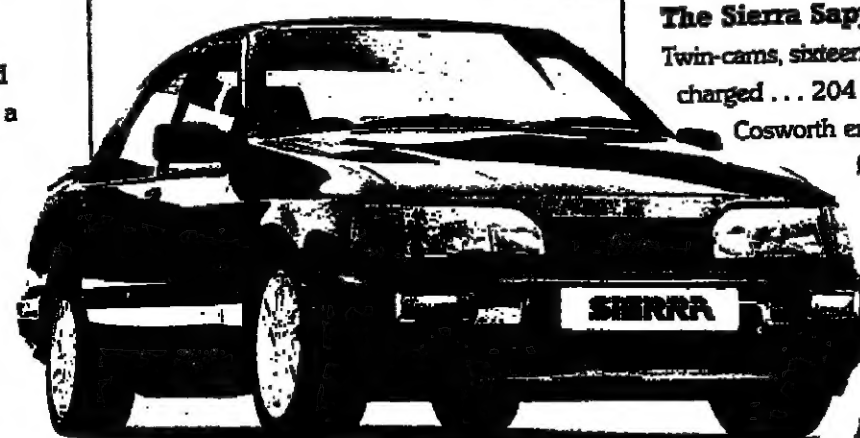


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## Curfew is imposed to halt looting as quake toll mounts

The Soviet authorities yesterday imposed a curfew to halt looting in the wake of the earthquake in Spitak. The curfew was imposed in the city of Spitak, 100 per cent of the city was destroyed, other towns were damaged. Troops were sent to patrol the city. In Spitak, special police were posted on the streets and in the city.

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

between 50,000 and 70,000 people would have to be evacuated. It was hoped that the evacuation of all women and children could be completed within 10 days. The men were being encouraged to stay behind to help with clearance and reconstruction. Officials emphasized that any evacuation was only temporary. The number of injured is now put at 13,000, 6,000 of whom are in hospital. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that 18,500 people had been recovered from the rubble in the first four days of the rescue operation, but only 5,400 of them were alive. The total of dead and injured in the rural areas is still not known. Mr Ryzhkov visited some of the affected areas by helicopter on Monday. He said some areas were completely devastated. Twenty-eight villages had been completely destroyed. Roads were impassable and rescue work difficult. There was no power and no communication lines, and no lifting equipment could be brought in because the terrain

allowed only small helicopters to land.

The first report was released yesterday of the meetings held by President Gorbachev and the leadership commission into the disaster with the local Armenian authorities at the weekend. Mr Gorbachev complained that the distribution of cranes was uneven, and that some had been taken without authority, by individuals mounting private rescue efforts for their relatives.

He called for respect to be shown to people who wanted to bury their dead according to their own rites (some have complained that the authorities were refusing to allow proper funerals), and asked that soldiers from Armenia serving in other parts of the country be given home leave to find out about their families and to help in the rescue work.

There had been suggestions that those who lost relatives in inherently unsafe buildings might be able to sue for damages. But the Soviet Procurator's office has now said that if malpractice were proved, the victims would have no case in Soviet law.

## Caring hands for survivors of all ages

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow



A doctor in a Yerevan hospital yesterday comforting a seven-day-old baby boy who survived the earthquake minutes after his birth in Spitak. His parents' whereabouts are unknown.

Marina Markosyan gave birth to a son in the town of Spitak on November 20. On December 8 she was airlifted, badly injured after six hours under earthquake rubble, from Spitak to Yerevan and then to Moscow. She is now in one of the special wards for victims of the Armenian earthquake, at the Sklifosov hospital in Moscow, being treated for "crush syndrome".

Doctors described her condition as "stable". Like many of the injured, her kidneys were damaged and she needs dialysis. She has other injuries to her limbs and deep cuts on one arm. Yesterday she was in a four-bed ward, sleeping fitfully and clearly in discomfort. But she was one of the luckiest of the injured.

She was taken with minimal delay to Moscow, and her husband, Simon, travelled with her. He was unhurt except for a sprained hand, and was recruited to help in the hospital. He does small duties on the ward, keeps an eye on his wife, and interprets for those Armenians with poor Russian. Their baby son is with relations in Yerevan. But Marina's mother died in the earthquake.

In an adjacent ward, five men - two with bad leg injuries and the rest with terrible cuts to the face and upper body - were too tired and ill to talk. In the next ward, a girl aged 16 called Askia was chatting cheerfully to a volunteer nurse.

She had fallen four floors when her school collapsed. Opposite lay Dr Khosrov Simonyan: she had worked at a hospital which collapsed in Spitak.

She spent eight hours under the rubble but, like all the other patients I spoke to, she remembered everything: the initial noise, the falling and the pain. As a doctor, she realized how badly injured she was. At times, she said, she thought she would die. But she never lost consciousness.

She has large gashes on her face and throat, her right arm is bruised and bloodshot. But she is most worried about her right leg. She can still feel her foot, but only just. She wants reassurance that it will not have to be amputated. The doctor says she will have to wait, but she wants to be out of bed walking on it because she thinks that might save it.

While I was there, a nurse came in and gave her a note. It was from her husband. It was, she said, who had dug her out, singlehanded. He had managed to get to Moscow and was waiting downstairs to see her. He now had to wait until visiting time at 6 pm before he would be allowed on the ward. The earthquake has tapped a source of generosity in Muscovites which has lain dormant for many years. Even the elderly are saying they have never seen anything like it. Hundreds of Muscovites, young and old, are giving time, money and goods, to help the earthquake victims, but the organization of the relief effort, even in the capital still leaves much to be desired.

At the Armenian Government delegation building in Moscow, a rambling 19th-century building in the city centre, one wing has been set aside to receive gifts.

Yesterday morning there was a steady stream of people carrying bags, pushing shopping trolleys and dragging bundles. Unusually for an official building, there was no one stopping people at the entrance.

Halls were labelled: clothes, crockery, food, and other goods. In each, dozens of young people, mostly students, were working flat-out to check in the goods. Nobody was told underwear would be accepted only if it was new. She looked sadly at the carefully washed and ironed linen she had brought.

According to one volunteer, an Armenian teaching music in Moscow, at the end of last week each of the halls was piled high with goods of all kinds, and people were milling around everywhere looking for room to leave their donations. The chief problem now was a shortage of lorries.

He had relations in Leninakan and Kirovakan, two of the cities worst affected, but he could not get through by telephone because the lines were permanently engaged.

## Donations from Britain near £2m

By David Rowan

Donations to the main earthquake appeal funds in Britain were approaching £2 million yesterday evening, as further medical supplies were flown to Armenia.

At the Moscow Narodny Bank in King William Street, London, telephone and counter donations continued to pour in. By 10 am yesterday approximately £800,000 had been received in payments and pledges, and a further five sacks containing cash and cheques arrived in the morning post.

Five trustees have been appointed to handle the proceeds and an application was made yesterday to the Charity Commission for registration as a charitable trust, which was expected to be granted within the day.

The secretary to the trust, Mr Stewart Macfarlane, said that funds would be transferred to a bank account in the Soviet Union to be administered by a special commission under the Soviet Prime Minister, Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov.

The funds will be applied by the commission in co-operation with the Armenian authorities for their best utilization," Mr Macfarlane said.

An appeal co-ordinated by the YMCA's world development wing, Y-Care International, has collected approximately £250,000 in two days, largely through branches of building societies. Credit card donations to the Armenian Earthquake Appeal, organized by the British Red Cross, had reached £234,000 by 1 pm yesterday, with cash and cheques still to be added. Further medical equipment

and supplies were sent from British hospitals, including Addenbrooke's in Cambridge and St Bartholomew's and Charing Cross in London. A doctor, two nurses and a renal technician were sent from St Thomas's Hospital, London, to assist victims with kidney failure. They flew from Heathrow yesterday with five dialysis machines and sufficient supplies for 100 dialyses.

Aid Armenia, the British Armenian charity, has sent 10 dialysis machines and is preparing a further 27, which were mostly provided by hospitals. The charity has announced a target of £1 million.

The West German soccer league champions, Werder Bremen, will play a charity match in Soviet Armenia in January against the local side, Ararat, Yerevan, to raise money for earthquake victims. The Yugoslav soccer team, Red Star Belgrade, will play a separate game against a Soviet team in Moscow or Kiev within the next two weeks.

to be reached by Christmas and by yesterday afternoon medical goods and housing worth well over £500,000 were being distributed, as well as approximately 60 tonnes of clothing and blankets. Mstislav Rostropovich, the cellist, has agreed to play an Aid Armenia benefit concert on Friday, at the Central Hall, Westminster. It will be his first solo recital in Britain for two decades. On Saturday he will also take part in a concert at the Barbican Hall, London, sponsored by The Times, which will benefit the British Red Cross appeal.

Barbican concert, page 7

## North faces trial

Washington - Former Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North will now almost certainly stand trial early next year after a federal judge in the Iran-Contra case stinging rejected a series of demands by defence lawyers (Christopher Thomas writes).

Judge Gerhard Gesell accused the former White House aide of a calculated attempt to frustrate the prosecution by lodging a request to use 30,000 pages of secret documents as evidence. He was granted permission to select only 300 classified documents for public disclosure during his trial.

## Arms leave

Brussels (AFP) - The last eight cruise missiles deployed at Florennes, Belgium, have left to be destroyed in the US under terms of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, military sources said.

## Missile death

Honolulu (AP) - A crewman was killed when his Indian merchant ship was struck by a practice missile launched by a US Navy jet near Kauai.

## Aquino denial

Manila (AP) - President Aquino denied speculation by her brother, Mr Jose Cojuangco, that she would seek re-election in 1992.

## Foam banned

Johannesburg (Reuters) - South Africa, under pressure to improve safety standards in its mines, has banned polyurethane foam, the insulating material which was blamed for the gold-mine disaster in which 177 men were killed two years ago.

## QC appointed

Sydney - Mr Douglas Drummond QC, of Brisbane, has been appointed a special prosecutor against police and political corruption after a commission inquiry.

## Truce shaken

Nicosia (AFP) - Iran accused Iraqis of opening fire on Iranian positions, killing two guards and wounding others in violation of the UN-monitored cease-fire.

## Dog kills baby

Canton, Ohio (AP) - A baby girl of six months was killed by a pit bull-terrier wanting her biscuit.

## Strike over

Lima (AP) - The Communist-led mineworkers' federation has agreed to end its eight-week strike.



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Signing of historic southern Africa peace protocol ends more than two decades of hostilities

# Final countdown begins to Namibian independence

From Gavin Bell, Brazzaville

More than two decades of guerrilla warfare and bitter political wrangling over Namibia has officially ended with a written agreement providing for its independence from South Africa within a year.

The brief four-point protocol signed in the Congolese capital yesterday by senior ministers of South Africa, Angola and Cuba, also requires an estimated 50,000 Cuban troops to withdraw from Angola by July, 1991. It will be formalized by a tripartite treaty to be signed in New York on December 22, along with a separate accord between Cuba and Angola.

Under the United States mediated settlement, Namibia will begin a seven-month transition to independence on April 1 (designated "D-Day" in the protocol), culminating in the election of a Constituent Assembly on November 1. Providing a single party achieves a two-thirds majority, independence could be declared within 48 hours.

Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, described the protocol, ending 73 years of South African rule over the former German colony, as an important contribution to peace in the region.

Facing reporters

accompanying him to the Congolese capital, Mr Botha said: "To us who have worked so hard over so many years in order to reach a situation where a peaceful and stable, small Western Africa could evolve, this is an important day."

"We can't give you guarantees that everything that is going to be undertaken and signed will be implemented. We can only say that what was considered to be impossible some nine months ago could today crystallize and become possible."

Mr Botha added a historical perspective to the dispute, tracing its origins to Germany's annexation of the territory in the last century, and a note of regret: "It has been a long dispute, it has contributed to a large extent to a hostile atmosphere in the world against South Africa over so many years."

The countdown to independence of the huge, sparsely populated territory will proceed in accordance with a timetable laid down in United Nations Security Council Resolution 435, adopted 10 years ago. Pretoria would reduce its 60,000 troops in Namibia to 1,500 men before the election, and complete its withdrawal a week later.

A United Nations Transi-

tion Assistance Group (UNTAG) would police the ceasefire in Namibia, monitor the South African withdrawal, and help supervise the election. The group, which has yet to be formed, is expected to comprise about 7,000 soldiers and 300 civilians.

Pretoria has always insisted on a Cuban withdrawal from Angola as part of an overall

settlement, and yesterday Mr Botha disclosed officially for the first time the agreed 27-month programme. He said some 3,000 troops were to be out of the country by D-Day and the remainder were to be north of the 15th parallel 190 miles from the border with Namibia, four months afterwards. Three months later, they were to be north of the

13th parallel, which roughly bisects Angola some 350 miles from the border.

They would then return to Cuba in batches, with half of them gone seven months after D-Day, 33,000 after one year, 38,000 after 18 months and the rest by July 1991.

By a curious coincidence, the end of an era of colonial-style rule came in a relic of

another colonial administration — the former French Governor's residence in the centre of Brazzaville. The relatively modest complex of neat, white buildings now serves as the offices of President Sassou Nguesso, and the signing took place in an annex reserved for ceremonial occasions.

Mr Chester Crocker, the US

Assistant Secretary of State who engineered the settlement, chaired the proceedings. Unfortunately, a mêlée of press cameramen robbed the assembled dignitaries of a view of the actual signing. The chief delegates then mounted a raised platform one by one to shake hands with President Nguesso, rather like football captains being presented to royalty after a cup final.

In a brief speech, Mr Crocker said the parties had faced a stark choice between war and peace, and by choosing the latter, had ended a sad chapter in African history.

Mr Botha again blamed the Germans for starting the trouble in the 19th century, and appealed for future peace and understanding: "Southern Africa is like a zebra. You can't put a bullet in the white stripe and think the animal will survive."

Despite appalling blunders by a translator, Mr Botha's speech was generally well received and he drew applause when he concluded: "A new era has begun. My Government is removing racial discrimination. We want to be accepted by our African brothers. We need each other."

Thus with champagne and canapés on the presidential lawn, a brutal conflict came technically to an end.

However, daunting obstacles remain to long-term peace

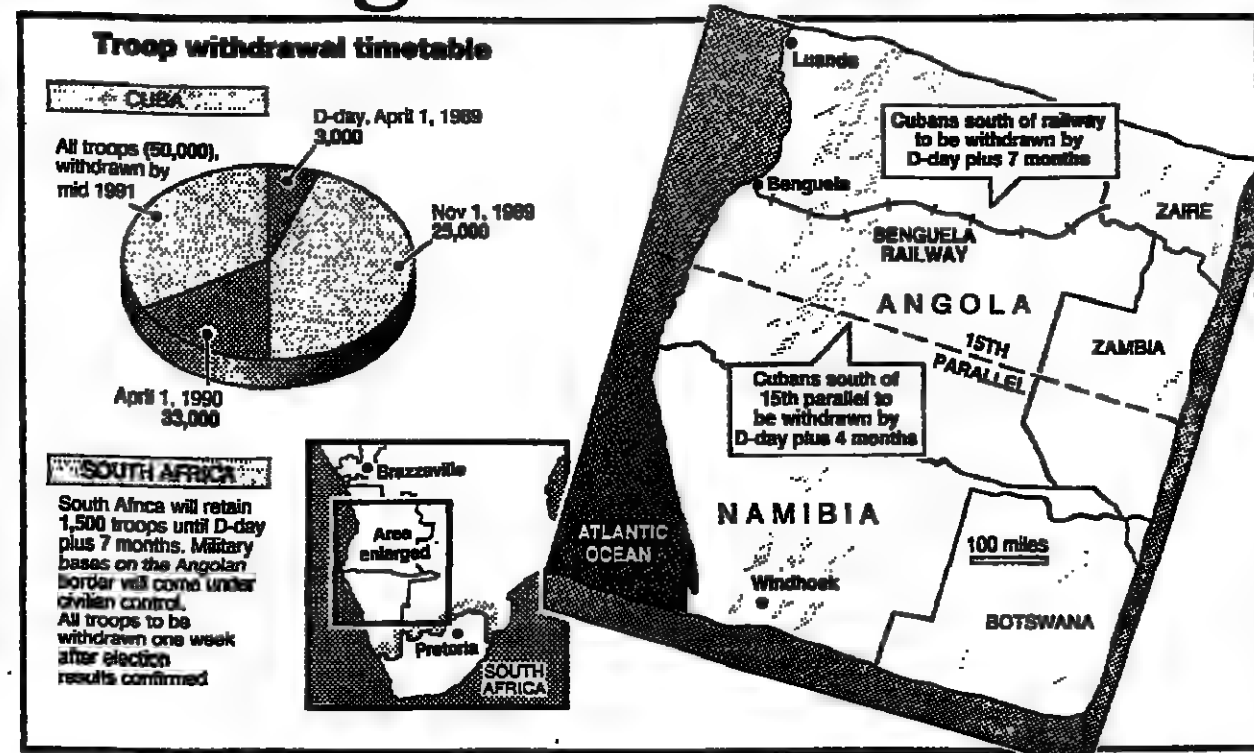
in the region. The accord does not deal with an essential element of the civil war in Angola, the Western-backed Unita guerrilla organization, which is fighting the pro-Soviet Government. Nor does it address the problem of Walvis Bay, the deep-water port which South Africa still claims as an integral part of its territory.

A chapter in the territory's turbulent history may be closing, but another of equal uncertainty is only just beginning.

JOHANNESBURG: There was no specific mention in the protocol of Unita but it says down that a joint commission will be established within 30 days of the signing of the accord to serve as a forum for the discussion and resolution of issues. It will operate independently of the UN peacekeeping force (Ray Kennedy writes).

Similarly, UN Resolution 435 lays down that all Swapo bases will be closed a week after the election results are certified, although South Africa has always denied the guerrillas have any bases on Namibian soil.

The signing of the tripartite agreement is to be followed immediately by an exchange of prisoners of war between Angola, Cuba and South Africa. The number in South African hands is not known.



## Yugoslav economic crisis

### Party chief presses for rapid reforms

From Desza Trevisan, Belgrade

The Yugoslav Communist leadership has appealed for the urgent implementation of economic reforms and has called for an inquiry into the failure of the federal Government's anti-inflationary measures, introduced at the beginning of the year.

Mr Stefan Korošec, the party's Executive Secretary, told the Central Committee this week that anti-inflationary policies had totally collapsed. The rate of inflation had doubled this year to 250 per cent.

Yugoslavia was facing a social upheaval which would endanger the foundations of its socialist system, and the Communist Party would lose whatever support it still had left, he said.

Mr Korošec said that "socialist models" in Yugoslavia and elsewhere had become too rigid and "ossified" to offer a viable alternative to capitalism. He said Yugoslavia should intensify its links with the EEC, and even spoke of seeking associate membership as a first step towards joining.

Yugoslav politicians and economists for many months have been expressing concern over the country's neglect of the opportunities offered by a closer association with Western Europe.

There has been strong resistance

from ideological conservatives, but Yugoslav diplomats have now stepped up contacts with Brussels and individual EEC countries.

While the Yugoslavs are anxious to stimulate private enterprise, there is still resistance from industries which for decades have enjoyed privileged monopolies.

The federal Government has come under strong pressure from strikers demanding wage increases. Local officials have been forced to meet strikers' demands and the Government has had to make concessions, including the lowering of interest rates.

The Yugoslav Communist Party is torn by conflicting ethnic and ideological differences. In Slovenia, the most prosperous republic and the most Western in outlook, alternative groups are already emerging as a growing challenge to the Communist Party. Slovenes are to set up the nucleus of a Social Democratic Party to act as a loyal opposition within the system.

Elsewhere corruption cases are being uncovered. In Bosnia, almost the entire political establishment was shaken after it was revealed that party leaders had been receiving cheap credit to build summer houses on the coast, as well as acquiring public sites for hunting lodges and homes.

## ABBEY NATIONAL INTEREST RATES

### Change of Interest Rates

#### INVESTMENTS

With effect from 1st January, 1989 the rates of interest listed below will apply to savings and investment accounts both new and existing.

#### OTHER ACCOUNTS

Interest rates on accounts other than those listed are available on request.

	Net Rate	Gross Return
<b>STERLING ASSET ACCOUNT</b>		
Plus 0.25% bonus on top.		
Annual Interest:		
£1,000-£9,999	9.35 p.a.	12.47
£10,000-£24,999	9.60 p.a.	12.80
£25,000 plus	10.00 p.a.	13.35
Monthly Income Option		
£1,000-£9,999	9.97	11.99
£10,000-£24,999	9.20	12.27
£25,000 plus	9.57	12.75
<b>FIVE STAR ACCOUNT</b>		
£500 up to £4,999	8.40 p.a.	11.29
£5,000 up to £9,999	8.75 p.a.	11.67
£10,000 up to £24,999	9.05 p.a.	11.93
£25,000 plus	9.35 p.a.	12.33
<b>CURRENT ACCOUNT</b>	5.00	6.67
<b>HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT</b>		
Annual Interest:		
£2,500 up to £9,999	8.15 p.a.	10.87
£10,000 up to £24,999	8.85 p.a.	11.48
£25,000 plus	9.15 p.a.	12.30
Monthly Interest:		
£2,500 up to £9,999	7.85	10.48
£10,000 up to £24,999	8.35	11.11
£25,000 plus	8.75	11.72
<b>HIGHER INTEREST ACCOUNT</b>	8.15	12.30
<b>SHARE ACCOUNT</b>	8.15	8.88
<b>RETIREMENT INVESTMENT ACCOUNT</b> (Personal Pension Plan)		
Up to £1,500		12.25%
£1,500 up to £4,999		12.50%
£5,000 up to £9,999		12.75%
£10,000 up to £24,999		13.00%
£25,000 up to £49,999		13.25%
£50,000 plus		13.50%

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## Threat of election anarchy intensifies in Sri Lanka

From Edward Gorman, Colombo

Sri Lanka's presidential election on Monday, the first since 1982, is widely expected to be marred by extensive violence, intimidation of voters at polling stations and concerted attempts at rigging and electoral fraud.

Amid an increasingly violent and unstable environment, there are still rumours of a last-minute postponement of the poll. Most independent observers and Western diplomatic analysts agree that the chances for a genuine exercise in democracy are slim.

"It's going to be a hard fight, with much cheating on both sides," was how one Colombo resident put it.

The turnout is expected to be low, with many voters opting to stay away from polling stations because of death threats from the underground Sinhalese nationalist People's Liberation Front

which is violently opposed to President Jayewardene, and counter-threats from paramilitary organizations, apparently acting in concert with the security forces.

In many areas, and particularly in the violent south, the electoral machinery has virtually disintegrated, with local government agents and civil servants responsible for polling either refusing to turn up for work or going into hiding.

The effect is likely to be an extremely uneven pattern of voting, with reasonable participation in areas where the security forces retain some control, but virtually none in areas worst hit by the violence. In this, the elections are likely to follow the precedent set by recent provincial council elections in the Eastern province.

Those polls featured huge discrepancies in turnout, with participation varying from 5

per cent to 80 per cent, the determining factors being the degree of control and security provided by the Indian peace-keeping force and the "success" of intimidation and a boycott ordered by Tamil Tiger separatist guerrillas.

The dwindling public confidence in the chances for democracy were summed up in a statement by a non-political group of 30 human rights and citizens' committees, the United Organization for Peace and Democracy, based in Colombo.

It described Sri Lanka as "descending into anarchy" with "virtual military rule" only a few days before polling. It said hundreds of youths were being killed by the security forces and by what it described as paramilitary forces.

"In such a situation," the group warned, "it would be extremely unrealistic to expect

any form of democratic election. The results of such an election held under military conditions would be without legitimacy and acceptance by the mass of the people."

Political analysts expect a low turnout to benefit the ruling United National Party candidate, Mr Ramasinghe Premadasa, the Prime Minister, who many believe will win despite early predictions of a landslide for the main opposition candidate, Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike.

Mrs Bandaranaike, increasingly concerned for the chances of a fair poll, has accused the Government of trying to win "by any means".

"If a fair election was held," she told an election rally on Monday, "without any doubt we would win." She accused the Government of detaining thousands of political prisoners under emergency rule to stop them voting.

## Child with a nose for politics



Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, happily suffering the indignity of having his nose tweaked by Kelly Sherwood, aged four, during the opening of a new child-minding centre in Melbourne yesterday.

## Luxury foreign cars start to make inroads in Japan

From Joe Joseph Tokyo

A Mercedes generally muddles through Tokyo's pencil-narrow back streets with about as much grace as a Sumo wrestler squeezing into a tatami.

Only a few years ago, it would have been rare to see it done at all. Then, only Japan's Yakuza gangsters could afford to drive — or would want to drive — such a car. Its size and glitter fitted in with the hoodlum's other habits, like permitting their hair, wearing white suits and chopping off the ends of each other's fingers.

Now everyone in Japan wants a Mercedes, though they will settle

happily for a BMW or Volvo. Almost as many — rich but not rich enough to buy property, yet determined to spend Japan's new wealth — can afford them. The strong yen, which has made imports cheaper, has helped.

Tokyo's traffic ensures that most limousines rarely reach third gear. But the Japanese are undeterred. Since they also happily squeeze television screens the size of billboards into their compact homes, parking a Mercedes in a garage that would barely fit a double bed is, to them, a challenge.

And please make sure the steering wheel is on the left-hand side (the wrong side for Japan), they tell the

salesman: it all adds to the glamour of owning an imported luxury. Most Japanese swallow their distrust of foreign goods when the product's cachet eclipses their lack of confidence in anything assembled abroad — even, sometimes, if it is a Toshiba television set made in Singapore.

The more fashionable foreign cars, mostly European, have reached this state of grace and are beginning to make dents into the most impenetrable car market in the free world.

Japan's carmakers, which are more used to hawking cars that they blithely call "midget size", are not the sort to drum their fingers on the bonnet and wait to go out of

business. They will make cars with plumed-in washing machines if that is what customers want.

Not only have Nissan and Toyota tapped the boom by building cars that are more spacious than most Japanese living rooms, they are flaunting their corporate adulthood before their mentor by exporting four-litre gas-guzzlers to America from next month.

According to the Japan Automobile Importers' Association, 97,750 foreign cars were sold in Japan last year, 43 per cent more than in 1986. It is still a modest proportion of the 4.3 million new cars sold in Japan last year. But it is impressive in view of the odds, and

business is growing. Foreign car sales this year are expected to reach 130,000 and are tipped to top 300,000 a year very soon.

West German cars account for three-quarters of the imports, but the complexion of the suppliers has changed: the shift in tastes has meant the pre-eminence of Volkswagens, the top-selling foreign car-maker here since 1968, has waned.

Now Mercedes and BMW are themselves feeling the heat from Japan's carmakers who are giving a lot of Japan's more conservative drivers what they want: a big car at a more moderate price and with a trusted and familiar Japanese name on the hood.

## Debut for leader of Khmer Rouge in Cambodia talks

By John Pedler

Mr Khieu Samphan, titular leader of the Khmer Rouge, arrived in Paris yesterday for a meeting with Prince Sihanouk, the former King of Cambodia.

Mr Khieu was head of state of "Democratic Kampuchea" during much of its rule from 1975 to 1979 when Pol Pot had more than a million of Cambodia's eight million population tortured to death, slaughtered or killed by "artificial" famine.

The Khmer Rouge have also announced their intention of sending a representative to the first meeting of the "working group" to discuss a "political solution for Cambodia", to be held in the former Cambodian Embassy in Paris from December 21 to 23. This meeting was set up by the leaders of the other three Cambodian factions: Prince Sihanouk, Mr Son Sann, head of the nationalists, and Mr Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Communist regime, after their talks at Fere-en-Tardenois, France, from November 5 to 8.

The Khmer Rouge did not attend these talks — which Mr Hun insisted should be at the highest level — because Mr Khieu would not come.

The Khmer Rouge bid to assist in the search for a Cambodian solution to the country's problems comes after the Chinese Foreign Minister's visit to Moscow earlier this month, when Cambodia was high on the agenda and, according to reports, is to be studied further.

Prince Sihanouk and Mr Hun Sen have had four meetings in the past year, but the only result has been the setting up of the "working group".

Serious problems have to be overcome in finding a Cambodian solution, such as determining the role of Prince Sihanouk in any new regime and how to deal with the Khmer Rouge.

The Prince claimed in November that China would accept no solution without the Khmer Rouge and argued that, although they had killed 19 members of his family, their 20,000-plus or more guerrillas had to be accepted, as fact: some 150,000 Vietnamese soldiers had not de-

stroyed them in eight years, so how could Cambodia's small untried army contain them, he asked.

Mr Hun Sen, a former regimental commander, has said his Government and the Cambodian people could never accept the integration of the Khmer Rouge as a military organization.

Because their strategies are apparently incompatible, some Western military specialists are asking whether it is the Cambodian Government or the Khmer Rouge that holds the high ground.

Are the Russians and the Vietnamese, both plagued with internal difficulties, going to leave Phnom Penh to make what terms it can? Or is it China, seeing no place for the Khmer Rouge after they have done the trick of forcing



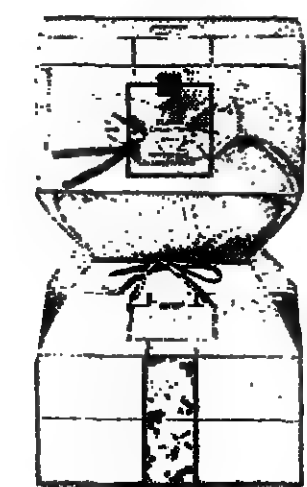
Mr Khieu: Was head of state during the era of genocide.

out the Vietnamese, that is ditching the insurgents?

Whitehall sources say that Mrs Thatcher, who was "visibly moved" by Cambodian sufferings when she visited refugees in Thailand in August, made it clear to Prince Sihanouk in London in September that it was time he moved the Cambodian question forward.

Mrs Thatcher does not conceal her attitude. This week, while the Khmer Rouge make their debut at the "working group" in Paris, she is to record an interview for the BBC's *Blue Peter* programme to help raise £1 million for their victims in Cambodia. Like Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, she believes the Khmer Rouge must never return to power.

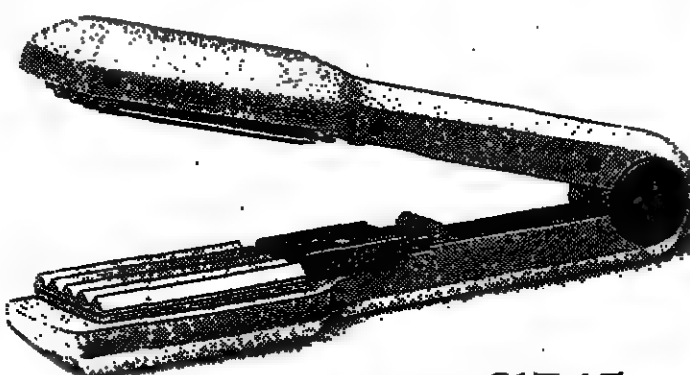
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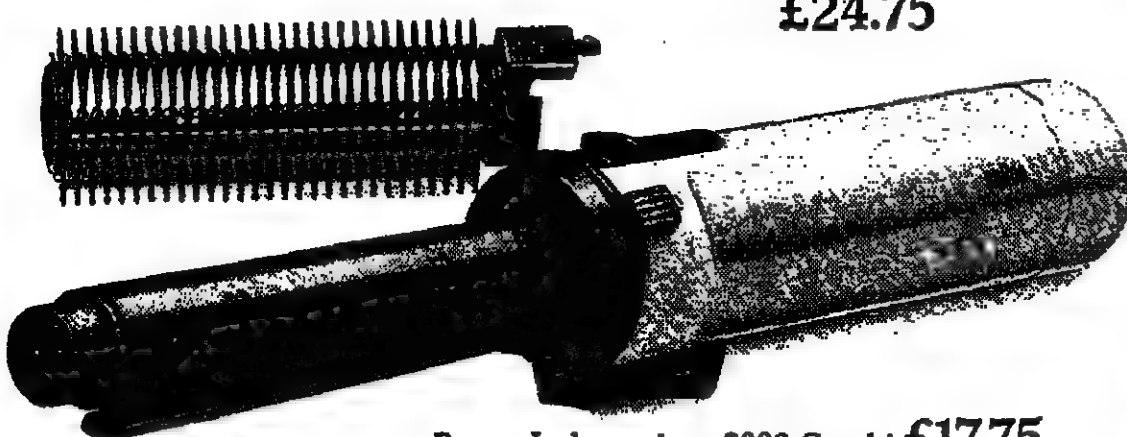
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## PARLIAMENT

## Thatcher 'calls in' Irish pledge

## PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister three times said during questions that arrangements for extradition from the Republic of Ireland were not working and called on the Irish Government to honour its pledge to review them. "We now call in that promise", she said.

Mr Neil Kinnock had infuriated Conservative backbenchers by saying that Mrs Thatcher had, by her behaviour, thrown away the possibility of securing extradition from Ireland of Father Patrick Ryan. He asked for an early statement on the Ryan affair.

Mrs Thatcher rejected the suggestion that Father Ryan would not get a fair trial in Britain and she was supported in that by David Owen, leader of the SDP, who said, to loud cheers from the Conservative benches, that to suggest as much was an insult to the British people.

Mr Kinnock: It is now clear that by her performance in this House and in Rhodes the Prime Minister has thrown away the possibility of securing the extradition of Patrick Ryan (angry Conservative interruptions).

Will she now take the advice offered by myself and others and consider proceedings under the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act, especially since the Irish Attorney General in a statement today said that the charges are of a most serious kind and ought to be investigated by a court?

Mrs Thatcher: The Government repudiates utterly the suggestion that Patrick Ryan would not receive a fair trial in this country. The effect of the Irish decision is that a person accused of very serious crimes will not

now be brought to answer them in a court of law in England.

That underlines how right we were to insist that the extradition arrangements were inadequate and we look to the Irish Government to honour their pledge to examine them.

With regard to the possible trial of Patrick Ryan in the Republic of Ireland, we do not absolutely exclude that, but only two of the four charges can be brought under the Criminal Jurisdiction Act.

There would be the problem of security for witnesses. We cannot obligate them to go to the Republic and, if the case failed because of the absence of witnesses, we could not subsequently try him under our own jurisdiction.

Mr Kinnock: She can repudiate as much as she likes, but she must face the fact that Ryan will not be extradited to Britain and it is primarily her fault that he is not going to be extradited.

I understand the Prime Minister is very disappointed; that is shared by many others including myself, but she is also culpable. She blew the possibility of extraditing Patrick Ryan.

Can I therefore ask if she will ensure that both she and the Attorney General avoid making the errors committed in both judgement and fact, and in conduct?

Mrs Thatcher: The Irish Extradition Amendment Act, 1987, requires the Irish Attorney General to state that he is satisfied that the United Kingdom prosecuting authorities have sufficient evidence on which to prosecute. I understand that the Irish Attorney General agrees that is so.

He made his decision on totally different grounds.

Equally, may I say that in the Ryan case, extradition proceedings in Belgium were in public and widely publicised as to the nature of the charges and to the allegations on which they were



Dr David Owen (left), who delighted Tory backbenchers by supporting the Government position on the Ryan case, with Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Neil Kinnock

based over before extradition from Ireland was requested (noisy interruptions).

These extradition proceedings were held in public... and Mr Kinnock knows that the Irish Attorney General could have

backed a warrant within three days, which is the time his provisional warrant runs. He could have done that long before the question ever arose for this.

Mr Kinnock: All she says about Belgium's conduct of

affairs was well known. Why then was she so poisonous about the conduct of affairs by the Irish Government?

I quote the Irish Attorney General, who said: "The matter does not end with the extra-

diction. The charges which have been brought against Patrick Ryan are of a most serious kind and should be investigated by a court."

The Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act provides the means whereby certain serious offences committed outside jurisdiction may be tried in Ireland. Such a trial could take place before a court of three judges and heavy penalties are prescribed under Irish law for these offences.

Is it not the case that because she cannot get everything she wants, she is going to settle for getting nothing?

Mrs Thatcher: The fact is, the Irish Attorney General has refused to back our warrant on grounds which do not arise from the 1987 Act. The result is that someone accused of very serious crimes will be at liberty in the Irish Republic.

I notice that he does not put his weight behind trying to secure the extradition of Ryan (Conservative cheers).

Dr Owen: It is an insult to the people of this country to suggest that Patrick Ryan could not receive a fair trial here (loud Conservative cheers). That feeling should be conveyed to the Irish Government as coming from everyone in this country.

The Anglo-Irish agreement is now questioned by everyone in this country and could that not also be conveyed to the Irish Prime Minister?

Mrs Thatcher said that she was pleased that he agreed "with us that we utterly repudiate the suggestion that Patrick Ryan would not receive a fair trial. Of course he would."

It was inevitable that arrest of anyone on charges of that kind would receive front-page treatment and it was a matter for the court to deal with if there was thought to be prejudice. The trial would inevitably be held far

from the time they had the problem.

"The Anglo-Irish agreement is there and we must use it to make our points vigorously to the Irish Government. They promised at the time to review the 1987 Extradition Act if it was not working satisfactorily. It is not, and we should now call in that promise."

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C) said that the Irish Republic Government had had special privilege, in relation to Northern Ireland, conferred on it by treaty. Since that part had suffered more grievously than any other part of the United Kingdom at the hand of terrorists, it was ironic that the Irish Government was at present the harbourer of a suspected terrorist.

Mrs Thatcher: He makes the point cogently. Under the Anglo-Irish agreement, we can tackle the republic about matters of security just as much as they us.

What is important is that they passed a different extradition Act when we thought we had arrangements agreed between us.

It is that Act which is not working properly. It is a decision under that Act, not the agreement, which has caused the present trouble.

Mr Seamus Mallon (Newry and Armagh, SDLP) asked her to recall her words at the Conservative Party Conference of 1984 that a government which wanted to proceed to tyranny undermined its own law. If the Irish Government bypassed the extradition law, it would, in effect, undermine its own law.

Mrs Thatcher said that the grounds given for refusing extradition did not relate to the grounds Mr Mallon had given, but to a totally different ground and were an insult to all the people of this country.

## Funding of NHS under fire

The review of the distribution of funds in the NHS (Resource Allocation Working Party - Rawp) must be using a weird definition of deprivation if it involved taking cash away from the North-west and the North-east and redistributing it to the South-east and East Angles on the ground of relative disadvantage. Mr Robin Cook, Opposition spokesman on health, said at questions.

Mr Clarke said that people from health authorities all over the country had contributed to the attempt to review Rawp to reflect objective scientific studies. Protests proved only that it was almost impossible for anyone to get it right.

## Paintings for Wales

Two paintings by William Hogarth, which have been accepted by the Government in lieu of £1.3 million tax, will go to the National Museum of Wales, Mr Wyn Roberts, Minister of State for Wales, said in a written answer.

Seventeen institutions had applied to house the paintings, which are from the Fermoer-Hesketh collection and are known as "A House of Cards" and "A Child's Party". Mr Roberts welcomed their allocation to a museum outside London.

## 'Chernobyl' plan ready

Extensive consultations, after the Chernobyl accident, with emergency services and authorities who would deal with a nuclear accident in the United Kingdom have confirmed the availability of contingency plans that would permit an effective response to be made to any nuclear accident, the Prime Minister said in a Commons written reply.

Plans were kept under review and were regularly exercised, she said.

## Need for more operations

There is a need to carry out more coronary by-pass operations and the Department of Health is pressing the regions to do so, Mr David Meller, Minister of State for Health, said during questions.

Priority had been given to the procedure for some years, but there were too many regions where patients had to wait more than a year for the operation, he added.

## Letter case

The case of Mr P. J. Haseldine, a member of the Foreign Office staff who wrote a letter published in *The Guardian* is being considered under Diplomatic Service regulations, and the Prime Minister does not expect to receive a report about it, she told Mr Tam Dalyell (Leithgow, Lab), in a written reply.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Environment, Debate on British Shipbuilders, Transport (Scotland) Bill, second reading.

Lords (2.30): Debates on the situation in Southern Africa and on human rights in Uganda, Iran and Chile.

## Government spending in Scotland is to be raised by 6%

Government spending in Scotland in the next financial year is to be increased by 6 per cent over planned expenditure for 1988-89. Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, told MPs.

The main priority was the National Health Service, but all areas are to get more money.

His announcement received a guarded welcome from the Opposition.

In a statement, Mr Rifkind said that the Government's management of the economy had allowed public expenditure to increase at the same time as its proportionate claim on national resources had fallen. As a result, planned provision for his Scottish programmes in 1989-90 would amount to almost £9 billion.

The Scottish Development Agency will get an enhanced budget of more than £150 million, with more money for



Mr Rifkind: Welcome for parts of the statement

the Highlands and Islands Development Board and the Scottish Tourist Board.

Planned expenditure in the

health service in 1989-90 would be £2,683 million, which was £182 million, or 7.3 per cent, greater than in 1988-89. Savings within the service would provide a further £60 million for patient services.

That meant that additional resources of about £240 million, an increase of nearly 10 per cent, would be available allowing more funds for reducing waiting lists.

The new housing body, Scottish Homes, would have funds equivalent to £86 million more than this year's spending on housing. Local authority provision for housing was to rise by 12 per cent.

Money for transport would increase by 14 per cent next year with planned expenditure increasing to £750 million in 1991-92.

Capital investment in water services is to rise by 14 per cent, enabling local authorities to

improve water supplies and the quality of rivers, coastal waters and some bathing waters.

Provision for education in 1989-90 would be increased to £2,354 million, or 7.6 per cent more than the equivalent figure for this year. The major part was for current expenditure which would go up by 7 per cent to £1,793 million. Provision for local authority capital is increased by 9.4 per cent.

Mr Donald Dewar, Opposition spokesman on Scottish affairs, said that there were some parts of the statement which he welcomed, but the total amount announced for 1989-90, £8,977 billion, when compared with the estimated out-turn for 1988-89, represented a cut in real terms of £200 million.

The increased spending on the health service was welcome, but not all above board.

Mr Rifkind had spoken of an

increase of £240 million. For a fair comparison he ought to include the £105 million extra for pay settlements. What account had been taken of inflation or the 3.5 per cent extra which the National Association of Health Authorities calculated to be needed to cope with demographic changes?

"If all this is taken into account, I suspect that in the health service we are looking at expenditure that in real terms is standing still or little better."

On housing, Mr Rifkind was telling the same old story of much more cash, but the Government's contribution falling in every conceivable way. Mr Rifkind was estimating ever-higher receipts from council house sales or the disposal of property. The Government's contribution would be cut by £40 million, a cut in real terms of £69 million.

The statement was nothing like as generous as Mr Rifkind

had represented. It was full of throw-away lines that hardly bore examination. "When dealing with the Secretary of State the term generous often has a sinister meaning, and rather sinister meaning."

Mr Rifkind said that for Mr Dewar to say that the statement was nothing like as generous as it was represented to be was a coded way of saying that it was pretty generous.

On total spending, the proper comparison was between present provision now and planned spending a year ago. That was what the Government had done.

One of the reasons for the generous provision for housing was the enormous response to the right-to-buy. It had been said all along that benefits from the right-to-buy would accrue not only to the people buying homes but also to local authorities and the Scottish Special Housing Association.

Mr Allan Stewart (Eastwood, C) said that this increase in public spending was in marked contrast to the record of the last Labour Government which was so inefficient that it had reduced public spending in Scotland.

Mr Rifkind said that the Government had said that its objective was to see public expenditure representing a falling proportion of national resources. But, because of the healthy state of the economy and the contribution of the private sector to the regeneration of the economy in England and Wales, and in Scotland, it was possible to have increased provision for the health services and other public services.

Mr William Walker (Tayside North, C) wondered who would have believed the Government if in 1979, it had told the people of Scotland that there would be a 34 per cent increase over and above the inflation rate in health service spending.

## Tory MP attacks health minister

Mrs Edwina Currie, Under Secretary of State for Health, should be added to the 10,000 people in the egg industry who would be made redundant before Christmas because of the question of whether or not to slaughter Gloucestershire, Mr Paul Marshall (West Gloucestershire, C) said during Prime Minister's questions.

He said that there was widespread devastation in the industry and millions of egg-laying hens would be slaughtered prematurely.

Mrs Thatcher said that so far this year there had been 49 cases of salmonella affecting just over 1,000 people, which had been traced to eggs. That was why the Government had taken steps with the industry, to issue a code of practice.

The situation was disquieting, as figures indicated.

The Prime Minister ignored Labour protests and shouts that she should answer the question simply repeating Government advice about consuming eggs.

Earlier in question time, Mr Geoffrey Lofthouse (Pontefract and Castleford, Lab) asked why, if Mrs Currie still held the view that most of the eggs in the country were contaminated by salmonella, she did not include advice in the health programme scheme for women that women should not eat eggs.

Mrs Currie then stated what she said was the Government's view. This was that, though the risk of harm to any healthy individual from consuming a single raw or partly cooked egg was small, it was advisable for vulnerable people such as the elderly, sick, babies, and pregnant women to eat only eggs cooked until the whites and yolks were solid - "in other words, hard boiled".

## PRIME MINISTER

Mr Currie was given conflicting advice during health questions on how to keep pensioners healthy during the winter.

Mr Alistair Darling (Edinburgh Central, Lab) criticized her statement earlier in the year when she urged pensioners to knit woolly hats to keep warm.

"On reflection does she not consider that her remarks were both ill judged and stupid?"

How much longer was she going to be allowed to act as a court jester to deflect attention from the fact that for most pensioners the choice this Christmas was between eating or heating their home (Labour cheers)?

Mrs Currie, who has introduced a national Keep Warm campaign, said that the worst winter for mortalities was 1979.

If the Opposition had its way there would be no Keep Warm campaign at all. There was no such campaign in the 1970s. Labour would be better advised to back the campaign.

Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury, C) pointed out that about a fifth of body heat could be lost through the top of one's head.

Mrs Currie believed he would look very fetching in a woolly hat.

Mr William Walker (Tayside North, C) said that in Scotland, which frequently had low temperatures, grandmothers' remedies were thought to be the best remedies. Woolly socks and woolly hats helped to keep elderly people warm in cold weather.

## Some nurses 'are making speculative appeals'

All health authorities would try to deal with appeals on nurses' grading, but a few were flooded by speculative appeals in which there was no real basis for a claim, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, said during questions.

Proper implementation of the appeals process could deal with legitimate grievances by next spring.

He confirmed that he would not talk to Cobus (the Confederation of National Health Service Employees) or Nupe (the National Union of Public Employees) while they were still

trying to organize industrial action.

He could not try to substitute himself as Secretary of State, for the management side of the Whitley Council.

Mr Thomas Cox (Totting, Lab) said that nurses throughout the country felt grave dissatisfaction and a sense of injustice over their gradings.

Mr Clarke replied that comparatively few nurses had taken industrial action.

Dr John Reid (Motherwell North, Lab) told the Prime

Minister later that many nursing staff had been denied fair grading because they were deemed to be working under supervision, even when the supervisor was asleep at home.

"There can be no adequate supervision when people are miles apart and out of touch with each other and their relationship with the Chancellor of the Exchequer proves that" (laughter).

Mrs Thatcher said that the structure of grading was agreed between the management side and nursing staff, and went before the review body.

## Tribute offered to emergency services

Mrs Thatcher and Mr Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, joined in paying tribute to the emergency services and others who had gone to the aid of casualties in yesterday's train disaster.

Dame Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgbaston, C) asked the Prime Minister to record the thanks of the whole House, first to the emergency services and second to the masters and boys of Emanuel School.

It had emerged that standing passengers were at most risk in the event of an accident and would be the Prime Minister's

sure that the point was considered by the inquiry?

Mrs Thatcher said that she had responded to what had been said and the whole House wished to record its congratulations and thanks to the emergency services and the hospitals.

She also offered her thanks to the boys and masters of Emanuel School who had quickly seen what was happening and had offered their help.

She took note of the point about standing passengers.

Mr Kinnock said that he joined with the Prime Minister in expressing sorrow.

## Epping Forest by-election

## Farce puts its mark on last days before polling

By Sheila Gann  
Political Staff

The four main political parties vying over the Epping Forest constituency agree on one thing: they expect a low turnout in the by-election tomorrow.

That apart, the party press conferences yesterday all contained elements of farce.

The former Alliance partners paraded widely varying figures based on their findings on the doorstep, predictably showing their particular party leaning through to challenge Mr Steven Norris, the Conservative candidate.

They also made clear the Democrats, the SDP's and Labour's recognition of the amount of political credibility riding on a good showing on polling day.

Figures from Mr Andy Ellis, the Democrat election strategist, had the Conservatives standing at 48 per cent (29 per cent committed Tory voters and 19 per cent "very soft"); Democrats, 23 per cent; Labour 16 per cent; SDP, 7 per cent; Greens, 3 per cent; and others 3 per cent.

Over in the SDP's camp, the candidate, Mr Michael Pettman, estimated that the Conservatives stood at 38 per cent; the SDP, 27 per cent; Labour 10 per cent; Democrats, 8 per cent; and undecided, 24 per cent.

The two centre parties also fell out over a disenchanted Tory voter, a Mr Eric Jennings.

Mr Andrew Thompson, the



Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (left), with Mr Steven Norris, the Conservative candidate in the Epping Forest by-election at a press conference in the constituency yesterday

Democrat candidate, produced him as a typical example of the swing from the Conservatives to the Democrats.

However, Mr Jennings's pique with the Tories appeared to centre on whether or not Mr Norris, if elected, would oppose a further move towards Sunday trading.

He told journalists that he

would also attend the SDP's press conference, but he failed to appear.

Mr Pettman remained unimpressed and said that he had already warned Mr Jennings "not to allow himself to be used by the SDP for their own purposes".

Other Conservatives shopping in Loughton High Street

were more concerned that apathy rather than any threat from opposition parties will result in Mr Norris's failing to approach Sir John Biggs-Devlin's vote of 31,536 in the last general election.

Mr Norris paraded Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who promptly went away again without meeting

constituents, many of whom are showing concern about pensions and rising mortgage rates.

Mr Lawson confidently predicted that the present economic problems were "short-term", whereas the benefits of the improvement in economic performance were permanent.

Mr Norris said his opponents did not have one original idea

between them about the creation of wealth.

The Chancellor denied he had been kept away from the constituency because of doubts over the economic outlook.

He said he had been invited to the constituency earlier in the campaign, but other engagements had kept him away.

After talking to the press, the pair attended the memorial service at Westminster Cathedral for Sir John Biggs-Devlin.

Mr Stephen Murray, the Labour candidate and son of Lord Murray of Epping Forest, refused to indulge in the enduring electoral game of unveiling his own poll on the result. Instead, he produced Mr Roy Hattersley.

The deputy Labour leader urged journalists to "boycott the bogus canvas retrials" and Mr Murray insisted that the "worst possible result" for him would be in coming second.

Mr Hattersley said a Labour victory in Epping Forest would force the Government to respond to genuine public concern about rising crime.

"With non-violent crimes going unreported and violent crime increasing at a terrifying rate, the Conservative claim that they are the party of law and order is rapidly becoming a mockery."

General election: Sir J Biggs-Devlin (C), 31,536; A Humphris (SDP-All), 10,023; S Murray (Lab), 9,495; R Devlin (Green), 695. C majority: 21,513.

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## SPECTRUM

## Called to account

A summons from Robert Sheldon can make even mandarins tremble. William Greaves talks to the man with the task of guarding the public purse

It sounds like another overpaid and under-employed parliamentary quango which meets now and then, signs the attendance book and puts in for expenses. To those in the know, however, the mention of the Public Accounts Committee is enough to send shivers down the spine of the most august civil servant.

Not only does it pry into how effectively — and how honestly — Whitehall spends the taxpayers' money, but when it thinks it has spotted a bit of dubious accountability, it lets its suspicions be known publicly on the floor of the House of Commons.

Secure, therefore, in the awesome power of his office, the chairman of the PAC can afford to adopt the tolerant and faintly amused air of a benevolent headmaster. Robert Sheldon, Labour MP for Ashton-under-Lyne, does so to perfection.

Seated at his desk in an impressive office high in the Palace of Westminster, Sheldon recounts tales of proven Whitehall wickedness. "Oh, this is a lovely one," he suddenly exclaims, leafing through a report of the committee's doings. "I was astonished to find that this was still going on. Wonderful, wonderful!"

"The armed services have to move men all over the world, you know, and someone has to make the arrangements and send the Ministry of Defence the bill..." Sheldon pauses, like a magician before producing his rabbit. "There is a well-known travel agency firm which has enjoyed a total monopoly of this work for more than 120 years!"

"Just fancy! Since 1860 someone has been looking at this same company's estimate for every single troop movement and saying 'Mmm, that seems about right' without once thinking it necessary to, er, compare it with a competitive tender."

Should any senior Whitehall official, "invited" to join Sheldon and his committee for a chat, feel sufficiently reassured by his genial manner to engage in a little nudge-nudge-wink-wink badinage, however, he or she would be strongly advised to recall the

fate which befell a former head of the Government's Property Services Agency. Asked to appear before the committee to discuss a possible case of fraud, his reply, roughly translated, was: "The whole building industry is rife with corruption and you really can't expect us to be totally unaffected by it." Two days later he left the service.

Within the last few weeks, the PAC has come out with stinging criticisms of the mismanagement of British forces in Germany, lack of control over multi-million pound defence projects — including Foxhunter radar and the Tornados F2 aircraft — and the rate at which inspectors are being allowed to resign for more lucrative jobs in private consultancy.

No one doubts that when the Public Accounts Committee — made up of eight Conservative MPs, six Labour and one SDP, with 900 "detectives" at its command within the National Audit Office — raises its collective eyebrow, the outcome could be embarrassment or even disgrace.

Ever since it was first set up under Gladstone's premiership, the PAC has been ruthlessly exposing malpractice. And Sheldon's definition of its authority is uncompromising. "We have power to send for persons and papers. You don't need much more power than that," he says. "Everyone has to come when we call for them and to present any documents we demand. For a Permanent Secretary to fail to appear adequate in front of the Public Accounts Committee can be quite serious."

"The enormous advantage we have is unanimity," says the opposition back-bencher, who has been an MP since 1964 and served as Financial Secretary to the Treasury up to his party's defeat in the 1979 general election. "All we are doing is to make sure that the taxpayer is protected. That overcomes party differences."

So how efficient is the Government when it comes to spending the taxpayers' money? Sheldon pondered the question carefully before passing judgement. "If you compare us with other countries then undoubtedly we are better. A lot of countries have as their main problem fraud and corruption. We have a relatively honest civil service. The trouble with fraud and corruption is that, once it gets a hold, it is extraordinarily difficult to eradicate. The greatest safeguard is the honest civil servant."

"In the recession of 1981 and afterwards, when contractors were short of business and civil servants were underpaid, we had great difficulty. The mixture of a resentful civil servant and a contractor desperate to keep afloat is a most dangerous combination."

Defence procurement and high-risk government-supported projects — Sheldon is unable to mention the name De Lorean without a shudder — are regarded by the Public Accounts Committee as the two greatest headaches. "Normally our language is very restrained but the De Lorean affair was the one occasion which found us reaching for the thesaurus. That really went beyond the bounds of acceptability. We found out, for instance, that the De Lorean board had government non-executive directors on it. What were they doing? What was their role?"

"De Lorean was a very powerful man and what we discovered was that these non-executive directors did not sufficiently question what he was doing. But there he was, syphoning all this money off. They had a responsibility to

the Government as well as to the company and we drew attention to a very serious anomaly."

But it is often the smaller bangles which provide the most remarkable discoveries. "Take the Hamilton College of Education," Sheldon says. "That was a teacher training college which cost £20 million and was due to close. It was valued at £6 million — and sold off at £600,000!"

"And when the National Health Service decided it had too many administrators, it offered them premature retirement. No one knew how many would take advantage, no one knew how much it would cost and no one had any means of monitoring what happened. So in one regional authority there were 300 who took retirement and, in another, 10. And some of those came back into the service in another guise after taking their money."

Sheldon smiled at the recollection. The Inland Revenue and the Ministry of Defence are the latest institutions to discover, however, that it is the smile on the face of a tiger.



Protecting the taxpayers' money: Robert Sheldon, at his office in the Palace of Westminster

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## Goodbye '89

The third and final part of our exclusive look-back over the events of next year.

Oct 1: In a mould-breaking speech to his fellow Social and Liberal Democrats at their annual conference, Mr Paddy Ashdown demands new, distinctive policies to set them apart from other parties. He calls on conference to endorse his "tough, realistic" initiatives in favour of a top-up of extra lead in petrol, the farming of mosquitoes to increase the use of aerosols and "an absolute clampdown" on all whales.

Oct 4: Fighting off Mr Ashdown's bid for the tough, realistic ground, Dr David Owen tells his supporters at their annual conference that he is: "Sick to death of all this whingeing about the old and the poor. It's high time they stood on their own two feet. And let's stop this nonsense about Father Christmas. I want to tell all the little boys and girls out there that he doesn't exist, and nor does the Good Fairy."

Oct 6: The new editor of *Punch* magazine is finally selected. He is Mr Rip Van Winkle. "He once slept for a 100 years and is now dead," the publishers proudly announce, "so he is ideally qualified to give the magazine the new leisure approach it so badly needs."

Oct 10: At the Conservative Party conference, Mr Cecil Parkinson makes "this historic pledge" to privatize the Royal Family shortly after the next election. Commentators expect the less popular York and Kent lines to be run down before privatization, thus ensuring a profitable service.

Oct 22: The 1989 Booker Prize is awarded to *The Vehicle Owner's Manual*, by Honda. The chairman of the judges describes it as: "A necessary and complex work, operating on many levels, which seeks to instruct, enlighten and engage, going backwards and forwards until eventually the wheel comes full circle."

Nov 5: In a major speech, Mrs Edwina Currie warns that oranges and lemons are "potentially lethal". After studying all available reports, she says that: "Hundreds of thousands of people every year choke to death trying to place whole, unpeeled oranges and lemons into their mouths." She also condemns the import

of bananas, whose skins, she says, "cause numerous accidents every year".

Nov 12: President Gorbachev consolidates his position in the Politburo by appointing Mr Neil Kinnock the Leader of the Opposition.

Nov 20: A new biography of John Lennon is published, portraying the late rock star as a clean-living family man who enjoyed a quiet game of Scrabble before turning in for an early night. "This is a vile smear on the character of this great man," says a spokesman for his many fans.

Nov 25: Trusthouse Forte make a successful bid for the takeover of Stonehenge. "We feel that its full potential has never been realized," declares Mr Rocco Forte. "For instance, our surveyors have declared it draughtily and poorly decorated. The stones have no roofs, shower mats, or en suite television, to say nothing of coffee-making facilities for the busy executive."

Nov 30: Mr Peter Bottomley launches a new campaign to make the public aware of the potential hazards associated with laughing. "Around this time of year, people are often tempted to laugh too much, showing scant regard for those many millions who might not understand the joke."

"Excessive laughter costs this country over two million lost work days each year, and our hospitals are full of people who have shared smiles with others."

Dec 1: With his latest major biography of the Prince of Wales, *Charles At Forty One*, riding high in the charts, Mr Anthony Holden makes a bid to regain his reputation as a serious journalist with what he describes as "my most ambitious and important book to date". The result, *Neighbours: Behind the Scenes Part 2*, is scheduled for publication in the new year.

Dec 12: On the first day of the televising of the House of Commons, Mr Geoffrey Dickens MP condemns "the antics of some of the publicity-hungry members opposite." So saying, he takes out his banjo and runs through a spirited rendition of "My Boomerang Won't Come Back", for which he is roundly condemned by an all-party group of MPs dressed in stripy blazers and revolving bow ties.



CRAIG BROWN









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## WEASEL WORDS

The justification for the decision not to extradite Father Patrick Ryan offered by the Irish Attorney-General yesterday is a shabby evasion. It dodges his Government's fundamental duty both to separate law and politics and to assist its partner, Britain.

The most serious of the document's flaws is that it fails to follow the — perfectly sensible — advice given by many commentators since Father Ryan arrived in the Republic: that the decision should be made strictly according to the law and to nothing else. Mr Murray's case that prior publicity has irretrievably prejudiced a trial in Britain does indeed pray the Irish Constitution in aid in an attempt to fashion a protection from the letter of the law. But in doing so, he creates a new doctrine in extradition law so broad and so mysterious that it throws the entire subject into wholesale confusion. The motive behind all this has little to do with law and everything to do with political cowardice.

Late last year, the Irish Government altered its extradition law to make provision for extra consideration of a request by the Attorney-General in Dublin. This insertion in existing extradition law was itself prompted by the Government's need to signal to its more republican supporters that it was not exporting defendants to Britain as an automatic reflex. Law and politics were thus intertwined and have proved difficult to separate ever since. The British Government pointed out that extradition, which has never been simple, would be made harder with no good reason. It was not much comforted by assurances from Dublin that to all intents and purposes the amendment was for the sake of political appearances and that little would change.

In yesterday's document, Mr Murray acknowledged that his requirements in the Ryan request were met by his British counterpart. Deprived of the argument of technical deficiency, he created a fresh ground for refusal. He is charged to look after the rights of all Irish citizens and this must include assessing the likelihood of a fair trial should the defendant be returned. In this case he decided that no such fair trial was possible.

This is a more important comment on the British legal system than it is on the events of the Ryan case. Criminal trials in Britain — as in

Ireland and elsewhere — are conducted under rules which make provision for fairness. That includes ensuring that jurors are not unduly influenced before or during a trial. Defence counsel have opportunities to make submissions on these lines if they feel justified. Mr Murray's declaration effectively makes clear that no British judge could be trusted by him to reach a fair decision on the question of pre-trial prejudice. That is of course a policy decision and not a legal finding. It would be interesting to know whether his cabinet colleagues, and Mr Haughey in particular, endorse that view.

Mr Murray's decision opens a wide field of opportunity for trimming extradition decisions to the prevailing political climate in the Republic. There have been past decisions which have gone smoothly but their number has declined recently. Yesterday's argument would allow an Attorney-General to refuse an otherwise correct request and to cite as his reason any event in British public life, particularly in the courts, which he considered threatened the rights of the Irish citizen in question. Mr Murray may emphasize the uniqueness of the Ryan case as many times as he likes, but the precedent is there.

The Irish Government (and Mr Kinnock) have suggested a local prosecution under the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act. This Act has not been notably successful in the past; if it had been, British Government would not have been as keen as they are to see extradition work more effectively. In this case, the Irish Attorney-General has already undercut the prosecution case. Since most British media are available in Ireland, would it not be possible for the defence to argue that the jury would be bound to be unfairly prejudiced?

Where does this leave the Anglo-Irish Agreement? Plainly at its lowest ebb since its signature three years ago. But the Prime Minister was right yesterday to dismiss any idea that it would be torn up. There would be no possible sense in handing the IRA such a huge victory when there is no remotely comparable policy to put in its place. The Agreement, at least during the tenure of the Fianna Fail Government in Dublin, is threatened by something worse than extinction: existence in letter, not in spirit.

## TOO SHORT A STEP

Just over 41 years ago, the Arab world reacted with outrage to a United Nations decision, in Resolution 181, to partition Palestine, creating a Jewish state, an Arab state and a special status for the city of Jerusalem. Ever since, that tragic land has been disputed between the two semitic peoples, both convinced in their hearts of their right to the whole of it although one, Israel, accepted partition as the basis for its legal existence. Yesterday Mr Yasser Arafat had, in Geneva, an historic opportunity to declare a halt to the long "crusade against the Jews" then promised by the Arabs' spokesmen. He came close, but missed it.

He spoke of bringing the "People of the Book" together on "common terms" to "build peace in... the land of Palestine". He issued an official appeal on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organization to "the leaders of Israel" to sit down with it, under UN auspices, to negotiate. And he assured them that Palestinians sought "peace and security" both for themselves and "for all the states and parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict".

But he stopped short of the vital step of explicitly recognizing Israel's right to exist, while acknowledging its existence as an empirical fact. The step is vital not only because the US Administration has made this a precondition for PLO participation in peace negotiations. It is vital because only such explicit recognition would end PLO rejection of the 1947 partition, and renounce the PLO's claim to the whole of Palestine.

Mr Arafat denied — as ever, implicitly — the possibility of such a step, telling the United States that it should not "demand from us alone the acceptance of positions which cannot be determined prior to negotiation". Coming after his statements to American Jews in Stockholm last week and the assurances subsequently given by his adviser, Mr Bassam Abu Sharif, to the Foreign Office, the speech represents a step back.

The tone of Mr Arafat's speech suggests that he drew back from the Rubicon under pressure from PLO hardliners. In style it was as conciliatory as could be expected from the leader of a people which has suffered terribly at Arab as well as Israeli hands) from four decades of conflict. He asserted that "we do not

wish to see a drop of Jewish or Arab blood shed, that we do not want the continuation of the fighting for one extra minute". On the specifics of how this abstraction could be achieved, Mr Arafat appeared to grope for formulas which would meet the two key US conditions — Israel's right to exist within "secure borders" and an unequivocal renunciation of terrorism. But in substance his words fell short of these pledges.

Of Resolution 181, without mentioning Israel or explicitly accepting its provisions, Mr Arafat acknowledged that while it had done the Palestinian people "historic wrong", it provided the "international legitimacy which guarantees the Palestinian Arab people's right to sovereignty and national independence".

More disappointing still was Mr Arafat's statement on terrorism. He had been expected to renounce both terrorism and violence, whatever its source. In the event, Mr Arafat combined the statement that "I condemn terrorism in all its forms" with a salute to those sitting in the UN "who, in the days when they fought to free their countries from the yoke of colonialism, were accused of terrorism by their oppressors" — a formulation which leaves the PLO leader's position more than ever shrouded in ambiguity.

These omissions are the more regrettable because the three-point peace plan which Mr Arafat unfolded yesterday could form a basis for progress. He reiterated the now-familiar PLO support for a preparatory committee to prepare the ground for an international peace conference under UN auspices. He called for the deployment of UN peace-keeping forces in "our occupied Palestinian land" coupled — his nearest approach to accepting that the occupied territories formed the basis of the Palestinian state he had come to Geneva to proclaim — with "the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from our country".

Mr Arafat may well have calculated that he had gone as far as he could without risking the open repudiation by leading Palestinians which would have enabled Israel to deny that he is the PLO's authoritative voice. But that fact in itself would be an eloquent comment on the distance which still has to be travelled.

## GOOD HOUSE SELLING

This is a good moment for revising procedures in buying and selling domestic property. The housing market has quietened, at least in the South-east, and the prospect of a period of high interest rates has dampened the ardour of buyers and sellers alike. While the lull lasts, two lines of recent thinking deserve following up.

One line leads towards the simplification and speeding-up of the business of buying and selling homes; the other towards treating houses less like totems surrounded by highly-priced witch doctors and more like tradable goods, albeit vital investment goods, subject to the same rules of contract and consumer protection as other goods.

A London estate agent, John D. Wood, yesterday made an imaginative proposal for making house purchase less fraught. He suggested the introduction of a kind of "log book" attesting to a property's state of maintenance. If a garage consistently sold vehicles which the purchasers found to have major defects, it would soon acquire a bad reputation. The same does not seem to be true of estate agents. Besides demonstrating how well a property has been kept up by its owner, the "log book" proposal would bring about a closer association between agent and property than we are used to. The intensity of property dealing in recent years has not only expanded

estate agency; it has helped divorce the agent from responsibility (always shared, of course, with the owner) for the statements made or implied about the physical state of properties.

Wood's scheme offers not only a regularly-updated survey (for which of course the property owner must be prepared to pay) but a guarantee to future purchasers that the firm's probity is invested in its advertisements for the property. One day, perhaps, all estate agents might feel some obligation themselves to inspect or survey a property before putting their name at the head of a list of its charms and amenities.

The scheme would surely spread far and wide if the recent recommendation of the Law Commission were enacted that home-owners had a positive obligation to make truthful statements about the condition of property before sale, and lay themselves open to legal action if they failed to do so. The Government of course has a busy legislative timetable. But in the boom conditions of recent years the domestic housing market has surely now been tested to destruction, and it is clear legal change is needed to make it function better and more equitably. Interest rates will come down again. Before they do, the Government ought to take steps to make buying and selling houses a more convenient and less trying experience for one and all.

## School clash in inner London

From the General Secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers

Sir, Your leader of December 12 dwelt upon the need, as you saw it, for the break-up of the Inner London Education Authority to be speeded up in the light of the report of HM Inspector on Highbury Quadrant school. However, it seems to me that there are wider implications that we must not lose sight of.

The problems at Highbury Quadrant school existed for a number of years prior to the five-year period referred to in the HMI report. These problems largely resulted from a failure by ILEA to support successive head teachers by taking appropriate disciplinary action. Regrettably this sort of situation existed in more than one school in ILEA and was one reason for the growing disillusionment felt by heads over the conduct of that authority in the lead-up to the announcement of its intended abolition.

The activities of the Inner London Teachers' Association, and in particular its hard-left element, which used to be called the Rank and File, were not curbed by ILEA until very late in the day. In the meantime they did untold damage to the education of a number of pupils in those schools in the authority where they wielded excessive power.

The "death-bed repentance" by those in control of ILEA during the immediate past has obviously come too late and clearly the situation at Highbury Quadrant should never have been allowed to reach the level highlighted by the HMI report.

The crucial issue is to ensure that none of the new education authorities covering inner London, nor any individual government body exercising its new powers under the Education Reform Act, allows itself to be manipulated and effectively controlled by any militant teaching staff in the future. That surely must be the wider message carried by the events at Highbury Quadrant. Yours faithfully, DAVID HART, General Secretary, The National Association of Head Teachers, 1 Heath Square, Botolph Claydon, Norfolk, West Sussex.

## Drinking on TV

From the General Secretary of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association

Sir, The results of the survey, "Drinking in Television Programmes", recently carried out by this association were rather predictably rejected by the IBA (report, December 1, early editions). The survey was done against a background of widespread concern about the abuse of alcohol and the alarming growth of alcohol related crime.

Our survey set out to examine the overall presence of alcohol on television rather than to identify only "portrayals" of consumption in programmes. It seemed to us that to do this would be to miss the point of the survey, which was to examine the overall presence of alcohol on television, as well as to talk about drinking, would fail to give a true assessment of overall presence.

The stated scope of our survey was, therefore, much broader than the research commissioned by the IBA. It is curious, though perhaps not unexpected, that the IBA should use its research to attempt to invalidate ours. The terms of reference of the two surveys were quite different.

When the country is faced with serious drinking problems these typical "knee-jerk" reactions from broadcasters trying to minimise their role in influencing social behaviour is out of place. It really is about time that those in broadcasting made some positive contribution to tackling the social problems they have helped to create.

Yours sincerely, JOHN C. BEYER, General Secretary, National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, Colchester, Essex.

## 'Aids charter' rebuff

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, I am unlikely to be the only person affronted by the so-called "Aids charter" issued by the self-important entertainers and others who subscribe to the full-page advertisement in your issue of December 1.

Their assertion that "we" are blinded to the implications of the Aids epidemic because "homosexual men have been stigmatised, and Aids portrayed as a disease associated with 'undesirable minorities'" is wilfully untrue. The spread of Aids has been widely publicised. It is indeed associated mainly with undesirable minorities.

Apart from a few Aids victims *sensu stricto* — babies, recipients of tainted blood, women whose partners were, unknown to them, bisexual homosexuals, et al — the Aids sufferers are precisely that — i.e., mainly sodomites and drug-abusers, together with numbers of women who voluntarily associate with this sexual underworld.

No civilised person would suggest that homosexuals should be discriminated against in the sense of being given worse treatment, other things being equal. But by the same token we should be at least as strongly against discrimination in their favour, putting them in a privileged position at the expense of the community's health. But this is precisely what has been done.

## Industry's need to invest more

From Mr Alfred J. Gooding

Sir, In commenting on the Chancellor's strategy Mr S. E. Elias (December 1) makes the point that with capital allowances at an historically low level, the rate of interest has profound implications for capital investment. I agree.

For some time now industrial investment has been very buoyant, due to a considerable degree to industry's profitability. Higher interest rates, and the strength of sterling, will inevitably squeeze profits, thus reducing the contribution they can make to financing new investment.

With 1992 and the single market just around the corner industry needs to invest more, not less. If it is to hold its own in what will be a more competitive environment — especially bearing in mind that our main overseas competitors are able to borrow at rates of interest which are way below those now prevailing in this country.

The Chancellor has made it plain that interest rates will remain high for some time. Indeed, even higher rates are not beyond the bounds of possibility. In such circumstances the Government must give more consideration to what needs to be done to encourage industry to maintain a high level of investment despite penal rates of interest.

Two options which should be examined are increasing allowances and reducing the rate of corporation tax — or a combina-

tion of both. I favour the former since, in my view, it would have a more direct beneficial effect on investment. (The latter would be of greatest benefit to profitable companies not investing at all).

Changes in allowances could be effected either by reintroducing free depreciation — that is 100 per cent first-year capital allowances — or substantially increasing the present first-year writing-down allowances of 25 per cent for plant and machinery. Either or both of these concessions could be introduced on a temporary basis, say for two years, as an inducement to companies to bring forward investment.

This device of a time-limited incentive was used to good effect in the 1960s when the rates of investment grants were raised in order to boost flagging investment.

These proposals would, if implemented, mean the Chancellor forgoing some revenue by way of corporation tax. With a very large Budget surplus it can hardly be said that he cannot afford it. Indeed, if there are signs of any downturn in industrial investment he cannot afford not to forgo some corporation tax receipts.

Yours faithfully, ALFRED J. GOODING (Chairman), Gooding Group Ltd, 27 Park Place, Cardiff, South Glamorgan, December 12.

## Pursuit of peace

From Lord Hylton

Sir, President Gorbachev is making welcome concessions from a position of strength. A defensive posture should help détente and should improve the conditions of life for the peoples of the USSR.

Mr Arafat, on the other hand, speaks from a position of weakness. The Palestinians have no state, nor even local or regional autonomy. The territories where they form the vast majority of the population remain occupied by Israeli forces and administrators. Many Palestinians are still refugees in Gaza or the Lebanon, while others get what work they can in Middle Eastern countries. It is, therefore, remarkable that Mr Arafat should have made clear his acceptance of Israel's right to exist (report, December 8).

We should understand the fears and feelings of insecurity of many Israelis. They have had to fight many wars and to repel terrorism in order to survive. Nevertheless, we should encourage the Government of Israel to respond positively to Mr Arafat's initiative. Now is the time for all who can to help build confidence between the parties in advance of a negotiated settlement.

Yours faithfully, HYLTON, House of Lords, December 8.

## EEC tax policy

From Dr Ann Robinson

Sir, Tim Congdon's article on taxation in the community (December 1) was unfortunately based upon material contained in an unsigned memorandum to a document comprising the eight opinions delivered by the Economic and Social Committee at its July plenary session. The material he quoted has no legal status.

As rapporteur for the opinion on COM (87) 320 I would like to point out that the committee delivered no opinions on direct taxation. It delivered opinions only on the proposals from the Commission for the harmonisation of indirect taxation. And in its opinion on COM (87) 320 it stated:

Whatever decisions are finally made should permit as much flexibility as the member States (to reflect their revenue, social and economic objectives) as is compatible with the attainment of free competition in the internal market.

Yours faithfully, ANN ROBINSON (Head of Policy Unit), Institute of Directors, 16 Pall Mall, SW1, December 1.

## Community care

From Mr John Ren Price

Sir, Ken Judge (December 1) is right to be exasperated at Kenneth Clarke's continuing inability to declare himself on Sir Roy Griffiths's community-care recommendations.

Social security payments for such care, running at £72 million in November, 1987, are now probably topping the billion point and continue to go unchecked. At the same time, the flow of funds to progress co-operative, community-based and non-residential schemes, which are very often much preferred by those who need the services, are drying up.

A dreadful blight has descended over most schemes in places where hitherto inspired enthusiasts have been able to overcome the many financial obstructions placed in their way. The zest and dynamism behind the closure programmes of our large Victorian hospitals are beginning to evaporate. Everybody is just waiting.

The fundamental problems lie in the internal arrangement of central government, not outside it. Until this is understood the losers will be those who need real community care as well as the families that support them.

Yours faithfully, JOHN REN PRICE (Chairman), Community Care Now! 237 Pentonville Road, NI.

## Drax power station

From the Corporate Managing Director of the Central Electricity Generating Board

Sir, Your article (December 5) alleges that the Central Electricity Generating Board has delayed ordering sulphur-removal equipment for Drax power station in Yorkshire because of a dispute with the Government about who should bear the cost. There has been no such delay.

The CEBG is committed to pressing ahead with its programme to reduce both sulphur and nitrogen-oxide emissions and their contribution to acid rain. Discussions are continuing with Government about how the costs are recompensed in an entirely constructive manner.

We expect to be able to nominate our chosen contractor for the Drax flue gas desulphurisation plant in due course when the evaluation is completed.

Yours faithfully, JOHN BAKER, Corporate Managing Director, Central Electricity Generating Board, Sudbury House, 15 Newgate Street, EC1, December 8.

## Star attraction

From Mrs Lindsay Rademacher

Sir, Miss Barbara Carland expresses concern (December 5) at the recent comments made by astrologers that Price Charles will never become King. The Faculty of Astrological Studies, which trains professional astrologers, shares the concern. It aims to protect the reputation of serious astrology and has a code of ethics which deplores the sensationalism surrounding such predictions, and their potentially destructive effect.

However, her subsequent observation (about Hitler and Napoleon) that "Astrologers are invariably wrong" is somewhat simplistic. The whole question of prediction is a complex one. Astrologers, rather like weather forecasters, give interpretations of the data they use. Not all astrologers give the same interpretations, and it is up to those who listen to forecast how they want to use them.

Yours faithfully, LINDSAY RADERMACHER (President), Faculty of Astrological Studies, 29a Sussex Road, Haywards Heath, Sussex, December 7.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01) 782 5044.

## Drivers' view of traffic troubles

From Mrs Derek Hayward

Sir, I was recently discussing commuting difficulties with a young "middle-management" man. He told me that he leaves his suburban house very early in the morning, in order to beat the traffic. He then parks all day in his central London office car park and waits, in the evening, for the traffic to ease before driving home.

He added that it would be quicker, more comfortable and much less frustrating for him to take the train, but his company pays for his car (with, of course, a tax contribution from him), its maintenance and all his petrol whereas a season ticket would have to be paid for by him out of taxed income, and he would still need a car.

With a mortgage, a wife and two small children it is easy to see why he and no doubt many others in a similar position choose to add to the cloggage of London's roads.

Yours faithfully, TESSA HAYWARD, 61 Church Street, Isleworth, Middlesex, December 6.

From Mrs M. Owsianka

Sir, In the current debate about London traffic one aspect that needs to be mentioned is the contribution of traffic engineers to bus queues.

It is virtually impossible, within that area, to avoid the Shepherd's Bush roundabout. Beside the natural barrier of the railway line, which has been strengthened by making the Addison Road bridge one way only, every road which could be used as a short cut by the local traffic has been shut at the appropriate point. It does make for quiet side streets, but it also creates impossible conditions along the few main roads and junctions.

I often have to drive in from Hammersmith bridge. It takes me 25 minutes from home, and then sometimes that time again to find parking space, driving along one-way streets. Most of the residents' parking spaces stand empty in daytime, but must not be used. I often wonder how many of my fellow motorists are caught on the same merry-go-round.

Would it not be possible for someone to study how the present fashion of channelling traffic adds to this problem?

Yours faithfully, M. OWSIANKA, 324 Malvern Road, New Malden, Surrey, December 6.

From Mr W. K. Hayward

Sir, In driving across London to work each morning I pass through 103 sets of traffic lights. The journey, 42 miles (Farnborough to Stratford), usually takes under an hour and a half. It is much quicker, cheaper, and more convenient than by public transport. The main snag is that I must leave home by 6.30 a.m. at the latest.

I always take the scenic route, right through the middle. This is also the quickest — I cross central London from Hyde Park Corner in the west to Aldgate in the east in about 17 minutes (42 sets of traffic lights).

There are various points of interest along the way, including the portly gent, obviously a late riser, who sleeps rough on the steps of St Martin's church in Trafalgar Square.

Not normally of sentimental disposition, I am often impressed by the first sight of St Paul's Cathedral when it comes into view from Fleet Street. Seem on a quiet sunny dawn, on a stormy morning its mood is solidly impressive. On some foggy mornings last November, only the cross at the top was visible.

Yours faithfully, W. K. HAYWARD, 27 Guildford Road West, Farnborough, Hampshire, December 9.

## Tucking in

From the High Commissioner for Nigeria

Sir, During my earlier sojourn here over 35 years ago, I discovered that "Dig in" was plenty of encouragement for my roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, and whatever else. Why does Mr Marshall-Chervet (December 5) want to add to this? I learnt "wrap up" then, too. He might also try this on his Christmas dinner guests who want to talk rather than get down straight away to the serious business at hand.

Yours faithfully, G. DOVE-EDWIN, Office of the High Commissioner for Nigeria, 9 Northumberland Avenue, WC2, December 5.

From Mrs B. E. Bloom

Sir, An uncle of mine used to recall a newly-prosperous Lincolnshire farmer who was entertaining to dinner some of his less fortunate friends. As no one seemed to wish to take the initiative in beginning their meal, he at last took up his knife and fork and looking round said "Well kerch 'old."

Yours faithfully, BARBARA E. BLOOM, 22 Little Lannon, Duntun Bassett, Nr Lutterworth, Leicestershire.

From Mr Francis R. Finch

Sir, In the 1930s Lancashire hosts said "Eat hearty."

Yours faithfully, FRANCIS R. FINCH, 25 Oast House Crescent, Farnham, Surrey, December 6.











## THE ARTS

State funds or commercial sponsorship for the arts? Andrew Billen looks at the latest arguments, as explored in a Channel Four programme tonight

## Angels and ministers of grace (and favour) defend us

Giving only four hours notice, Richard Luce, the Arts Minister, last Thursday urgently summoned arts correspondents to his office to announce that he was launching an inquiry into the structure of Arts Council and Regional Arts Association funding. Even for Whitehall, with its concern for parliamentary privilege, the secrecy preceding the announcement, which on the Richter Scale of news values perhaps registered 2, was unusual.

It turned out that Luce, a man of some courtesy and thoughtfulness, was worried that news of an impending but unspecified statement would leak out to council staff, who might unnecessarily fear for their jobs. It is a measure of the jitteriness of the arts world that the minister could conceive of anyone imagining slaughter at 105 Piccadilly.

Looked at dispassionately, state arts funding is more soundly based now than for years, because Luce has established a three-year funding pattern in which most

clients have a good idea of their grants not only for next year but also for the following two.

Luce will be cheered by news yesterday that demonstrates that arts sponsorship is becoming a weapon in business strategy to be ranged alongside public relations and advertising. Yesterday, the Prudential joined the first rank of sponsors by launching major arts awards for the next three years in which the top prize will be £100,000, with four more of £25,000. The money will go to organizations, not individuals, to spend on future, unspecified, programmes.

The real problem, as Luce has identified, lies in the 12 Regional Arts Associations which, following *Glory of the Garden* and the abolition of the GLC and the metropolitan counties, now distribute far more taxpayers' money, while still being run by local authority nominees through often ramshackle committee systems.

The anxiety that remains at national

level comes from two distinct groups of Arts Council clients. The first has been irrationally persuaded itself that state support is in terminal decline and attends to the Jeremiah cries of Sir Roy Shaw, the former secretary general of the Arts Council, who accuses his successor of asking for less government support when he should be asking for more.

The second group comprises clients who see the minister as simply making state support conditional on clients' justifying their subsidy by increasing other income and getting more people through their doors. They understand, but worry whether they can keep up with the pace of change.

Tonight's edition of *Signals*, on Channel 4, identifies a third kind of arts administrator, who does not complain "it's cold out there" but instead gives the impression that he finds the climate bracing. Under the unsatisfactory title *New Boys*, it interviews the new directors

of the National Theatre, the Tate, the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Royal Opera House, and contrasts their prognoses with Luce's prescription.

Of the four it is Jeremy Isaacs at Covent Garden and Elizabeth Esteve-Coll, the new girl at the V&A, who give the impression of having adapted best to the new rules. Esteve-Coll is facing head-on the recovery in attendances since the imposition of "voluntary" entrance charges in 1984. She points out that most of her exhibits refer to a Christian or Classical iconography of which much of the population is now ignorant.

She therefore enlists about advertising and marketing V&A wallpaper and fabric designs through Habitat, "because our collections roughly equate with people's lifestyle". Although preferring to talk about business collaboration, she is equally direct when talking about sponsorship. "Most of our galleries," she says, "will probably have to be sponsored." Isaacs at Covent Garden starts

with the inestimable advantage of sitting on a property goldmine to finance the rebuilding of the house in 1993. He too speaks of "a huge new emphasis on marketing" and of "no worries" about taking sponsors' money. He even comes up with an ingenious, if slightly implausible, link. Asked whether he approves of sponsors filling seats with senior managers and guests, he replies that many of them will not have been to opera before. "Those people are very welcome here."

Serota and Eyre are nowhere near so sanguine about either the practicality of widening access or the morality of relying on private money. Serota speaks of "witty advertising campaigns" but is clearly more interested in opening the eyes of those who do visit the Tate. He also warns of the danger of wealthy donors beginning to determine policies "which should be dictated by a wider public than simply the rich".

Eyre points out that theatre-going in Britain, unlike Italy, is a middle-class activity, and adds that hundreds of years of social patterning is not easily unpicked.

As for sponsorship, while eager for it, Eyre appears as aware of its limitations as its scope. For example, he says, it would be fruitless to seek a sponsor for a play which is an indictment of the values of the present Government: David Hare's *Secret Rapture* is unsponsored.

Although he says sponsors do not control the repertoire, he tells a story — presumably apocryphal — to demonstrate the opposite. Ivan Boesky, he says, once offered to secure permanently for Papp's New York Public Theatre with a \$50 million endowment fund. There was just one condition: that he put on *Streetcar Named Desire*, with Boesky as Stan Kowalski.

● *Signals: The New Boys* is broadcast tonight, on Channel 4, at 9.15pm

## TELEVISION

## Dogs and didactics

If horse racing is the sport of kings, how should we call greyhound racing? The hobby of variety? An essentially urban rite, popular among Chinese waiters and "businessmen" with embarrassing quantities of cash on their hands, it has signally evaded the glamorization accorded to snooker. Television's attitude to it is epitomized in the BBC's raising of White City Stadium, until then the largest in the country.

None of this concerned *Greyhound* (Thames), a sort of end-of-season filler, which followed the first year in the life of a particular litter sired by a champion dog and borne by a prize bitch. The latter's fraught confinement was recorded in full-colour close-ups of emerging proto-pups, which might have been canine cackles for all the resemblance they bore to the finished product.

The biggest and fattest pup earned the nickname Elvis ("perhaps because he was handsome," the voice-over hastened to add), which must have confused him when he started to race under the name Camera Flash. Only in the poetry of rippling shoulders and skittering paws did the programme come alive.

Tim Hunkin's eccentric series *The Secret Life Of* (Channel 4) continued with a down-at-heel history of central heating. This began with the presenter spending an entire afternoon gallantly failing to start a fire with the bow-drill method. Then it was down to the serious business of tearing Asotso to pieces and relighting bits of them while still connected to a gas supply. His friend Rex contributed a see-through radiator.

The odd thing is that Hunkin's amiable though ungratifying methodology actually fixes the basic technical processes in the viewer's mind: he is an excellent teacher as well as a notable inventor of such brazenly impracticable machines as a two-story steam clock. He and his fellow cartoonist Gerald Scarfe should collaborate on a grand mechanical folly, preferably in the forefront of the Television Centre.

Martin Cropper

## Trusting her instincts

Hilary Finch meets

Cathryn Pope, the soprano star of this Christmas's seasonal offering from English National Opera



Tiny face, somewhat larger voice: diminutive Cathryn Pope looks younger than her age

have quite the same reverberation as "Viyad li est' drugi takoi parubok".

Pope's response to the music is primarily physical, instinctive. She rolls the vowels in the back of her throat; she attempts to work out the musical line through her body in relation to the other characters on stage.

Her husband runs a health club, but she has nothing to do with it: "I dance to get my body right — I go berserk for half an hour a day with a tape of a jazz sax. I'm mad about it. I only have to hear it in a corridor on the Tube and I turn out my pulse!"

But with the instinct — that which took her out of a solicitor's office into the National Opera Studio and her first role with ENO — goes a particularly lucid grasp of the game. Opera companies are fickle creatures: what does it feel like to be the flavour of the year?

"I really do feel that the company are taking quite extraordinarily good care of me. But you've got to know where success is leading you. If you build your house on sand, you may well tumble. I've always been very conscious of that."

So self-discipline, slow learning, and shrewd pacing govern Pope's career at the moment. Last year, there was Desdemona in *Cost and Venus* in *Orpheus in the Underworld*; next August sees Pamina in *The Magic Flute*, and, at the start of the year, Leila in Bizet's *Pearl Fishers*. This, she hopes, will be the start of a long line of French ladies, including Manon and Marguerite in *Faust*.

But is there any role she really longs for? "Yes, Brünnhilde!" While Mimì, Violetta, and Gilda are the more likely options in the years to come, does Pope ever regret that she is never involved in new writing for the voice? "If opera were like ballet and someone came in and rehearsed and built up the work round the voices, that would be wonderful!"

"The voice is such an emotive thing; that way, I think, audiences would really be moved. But that revelation has still to come. Maybe composers have fallen out of love with the voice..."

● Christmas Eve has its first performance at the Coliseum tonight and continues in repertoire until January 13

## CARTER CELEBRATION

## Creation continues

EIC/Boulez  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

On Monday evening, during a pause in the procession of Messiaen events, it was time for the South Bank to salute Elliott Carter, a man born the day after Messiaen but in so many respects musically his antithesis: secular, continuously progressive, contrapuntal, atonal, unrepentant, constantly on the alert for change.

Where Messiaen's latest pieces belong to a musical personality that had been formed in its essentials by 1930, Carter's exist in a world then unimaginable, and his astonishing late creative energy was proved here in performances of three big, unceasing works written within the last four years: his Fourth Quartet, *Pentateuch* for five mixed quartets, and the Oboe Concerto that had its first performance in Zurich six months ago.

This last is an achievement to amaze. The form of the work suggests the composer listening with intense concentration and acuity to his solo instrument — or more precisely to the sound of it as played by his intended soloist Heinz Holliger — and responding with music in which not only the almost continuous solo line but also the entire orchestral score springs out of oboeans.

At first one is struck by the brilliant, surprising and yet exact ways in which the oboe's melodies and motifs are spread, bounced and extended by a chamber orchestra of single wind (but without oboe or bassoon), strings and two highly active percussion players. But then the piece starts to reveal ever more virtuosity in the matching of sound as well as material: the imitations of oboe multi-phonics by a concertino quartet of violas, or by a duo of piccolo and clarinet, are quite extraordinary. They show Carter fully abreast of the concerns of many composers half a century younger than himself, and technically equipped to surpass them all.

Perhaps because it is infected by likenesses more than contraries, the concerto has a formal simplicity and a generosity of slow music unusual for Carter: if too brilliant to be called relaxed, the work has reached a new and happy balance. It was zestfully performed by Holliger with the Ensemble InterContemporain under Pierre Boulez.

Paul Griffiths

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## Family power

## THEATRE

Mrs Klein  
Apollo

There is no shortage of plays showing families tearing each other to shreds through the force of unacknowledged emotions. Nicholas Wright's piece (first reviewed at the Cottesloe by Jeremy Kingston) breaks new ground as the story of an unhappy family who have given their lives to promoting emotional enlightenment.

Mrs Klein centres on the relationship of the renowned child analyst Melanie and her daughter Melitta; a childhood analyst, who materially assisted her mother in developing the theory that the infant is a murderous cannibal, and who went on to confirm it by herself becoming a child analyst and savaging Melanie Klein in many a merry dinging at the London Psycho-Analytic Society.

Wright focuses on what passes for the Kleins' home life: bringing Melitta back to Melanie's Hampstead house with the intention of wreaking vengeance by revealing that her brother has committed suicide and that she has gone into analysis with her mother's deadly rival. Melitta's hand is stayed by the presence of Paula Heimann, another eminent analyst, who is dogboobing for the successful Mrs Klein in the hope of a more than professional reward.

The action is uncannily phased, and delivers a corrosive picture of life in the psychiatric community, where such emotional sophistication co-exists with such a lack of self-knowledge. The usual dramatic values are reversed: so that



Consummate Francesca Annis

the sub-text takes the place of small-talk and the events of ordinary life have to struggle towards the surface.

Wright is not taking an easy philistine swipe at psychoanalysis; but, much more interesting, showing the detailed pitfalls of a blinkered theology; as where Melanie reacts to the news of her son's death in the mountains by taking it as a personal message to herself, as mountains represent the maternal breast.

In Peter Gill's production, the main theme — emerging through three consummate performances — is power. Gillian Barge's Melanie, resembling a private school headmistress, presents a woman at once cold-blooded and maternally passionate, who has to hold on to people in the very act of freeing them.

She reduces Zoë Wanamaker's Paula and Francesca Annis's bristlingly demanding Melitta to the state of guilty children, separately struggling for dependence and freedom in a play that drags comedy from the depths of the psychic jungle.

Irving Wardle

## CONCERTS

LSO/Rostropovich  
Barbican Hall

On Sunday night a slip of paper tucked inside the programme carried a message from the conductor, Mstislav Rostropovich, dedicating the evening's concert to Alexander Solzhenitsyn on the occasion of the writer's 70th birthday. And Rostropovich gave himself a little trailer for the evening of Bach Cello Suites he planned to hold at the Westminster Central Hall on Friday in aid of the Armenian Earthquake Appeal.

In such a context, then, he turned to two of Shostakovich's most physically extreme and programmatically specific "revolution" symphonies. The Third, subtitled "First of May" was played for exactly what it is: a young man's composition, asserting its individuality with uncompromising cut-and-thrust, marching ahead with not only the million feet of Semyon Kirsanov's poem, but with almost as many new sounds and new effects, strung out one after the other.

From the opening wind thrum to the striding string unisons, the complex battery of percussion and the final four-part chorus, it was to Rostropovich's credit that he parlayed the striving of the parts into a dramatically, if not symphonically, powerful whole.

His grip on the voices of the London Symphony Chorus was more consistently strong than that of the ensemble of the London Symphony Orchestra. But they rose to the occasion of the Symphony Number 11 ("The Year 1905") with its long hour of revolt, massacre and memorial intensely concentrated in its detail and firmly, patiently paced.

Hilary Finch

Brindisi Quartet  
Purcell Room

It would have gladdened the heart of Prioux Rainier, who died in 1986, to have heard her music juxtaposed with work by composers of younger generations, as it was in this concert. The Society for the Promotion of New Music chose as companion pieces for two of her works a selection of varying quality. It was to the Brindisi Quartet's credit that they were able to do so much for Symon Clarke's new string quartet.

Clarke has some good ideas in purely conceptual terms; his third movement is a palindrome of the first, which gradually fragments via processes of controlled improvisation. It might have helped if Clarke had been able to exploit a little more of the medium's tonal palette.

Comparison with David Matthews' Third Quartet was inevitable. In this instance the composer's extended compound movement reveals a mind acutely sensitive to direction, proportion, shape and clarity. Such essential ground rules having been established, Matthews further knows what constitutes a good idea. The colliding of music which is dynamic with that which is static is the key to this piece's sustained process of deconstruction.

The Brindisi again gave a fine, confident performance. Together with Nicholas Daniel they also graced Alan McDonald's *Lueria*, a curious two-movement mood-sketch with some lyrical and intuitive ideas but again, especially in its first movement, insufficiently taut. In another excellent reading, Daniel showed himself to be a veritable poet of an oboist, as he did in Rainier's beautiful, concentrated *Pastoral Triptych* of 1960, for oboe alone, and in her *Quanta* (1962), for oboe and string trio.

Stephen Pettitt

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## WEDNESDAY PAGE

## Offering a helping handshake

As the City prepares to shed more staff, employers are starting to realize that the best pay-off is the help of a redundancy counsellor. Sally Brompton reports

When David Miles, aged 40, was fired from his £30,000-a-year job as a marketing executive he insisted that his farewell handshake included redundancy counselling. Within weeks his shattered confidence was restored and he had accepted a post as a managing partner in a firm of accountants for an annual salary of £55,000.

Miles is one of a growing number of commercial high-fliers and top executives who recognize that involuntary job-hunting in middle age requires professional help. Increasingly, companies such as the recently smitten merchant bank, Morgan Grenfell, are making it a part of their redundancy packages. While it eases the employer's conscience, according to past results, it helps the redundant workers to maintain their self-respect and find alternative employment.

Miles, who, after losing his job, was simultaneously struck by a series of family disasters, has no doubt that he would have found it harder, more traumatic and less successful if he had had to deal with his re-employment single-handed. "I realized I needed help to make sure my next move was not down the same dead-end," he says. "In my case, the whole service kept me sane so that when the opportunity came along I was in a receptive mood and a presentable state."

Despite his crusading belief in the power of redundancy counselling, Miles is anxious that his new employer does not discover that he had outside help in getting the job. He clearly believes that there is still some stigma attached to this type of career guidance.

"I know that five other executives who have been made redundant are refusing to use this service," Miles says. "They feel they're too senior and have persuaded themselves that nobody knows as much as they do. As a result, they are having difficulty in getting new jobs. They are locked in the view that because they are of managing director or chief executive status anything else would be some kind of failure, a public humiliation they couldn't face."

This is an attitude which seems to be lessening, according to the dozens of counselling organizations springing up to meet the needs of the redundant. Known as "outplacement agencies", they cater for workers from the shop-floor to the boardroom and are usually paid by the redundant worker's former employer.

With redundancy a growing economic reality and counselling the buzz-word of the past two decades, it is perhaps not surprising that the two should have been brought together to form a profitable business partnership. As with so many of the therapeutic formulas for success, outplacement agencies originated in North America and the majority of those in Britain are American-owned.



Counsel worker Pauline Hyde: "We aim to help people come to terms with their redundancy"

Pauline Hyde, a former management consultant who runs one of the few British outplacement agencies, started her company 10 years ago after discovering redundancy counselling in Canada.

"Broadly speaking, we handle senior people in a one-to-one counselling situation," she says. "We help people come to terms with the situation and to decide

what is best for their future. Most people want to continue their career in some direction, preferably upwards. Sixty-seven per cent of the people we counselled last year actually got better jobs."

She has 30 senior consultants, plus another 40 who work part-time, and they can deal with up to 100 people at a time. The large open-plan office with full sec-

retarial and administrative back-up in Lincoln's Inn Fields, central London, has desk room for 25 job-hunters.

"Everybody who gets fired feels there's something wrong with them, and it's a shock - like finding that your house has burned down," Hyde says. "Some people take weeks to recover and when you're in a state of shock it's

not a very good time to make decisions. And if you're shaky it's going to be difficult to get what you want."

"Basically, you have to feel better about yourself because you're going to have to market yourself in a very competitive arena." Her programme of non-directive counselling is aimed at restoring confidence and training people to job-hunt.

Hyde charges a standard fee of 15 per cent of the applicant's previous salary plus £850, with a minimum fee of £3,750. The average age of the executives for whom she finds jobs - about 5 per cent are women - is 46, but 45 per cent of them are between 50 and 59.

The fact that most businesses which take out contracts with outplacement agencies return regularly seems to indicate the system's success. David Hardy, chairman of Globe Investment Trust, insists on redundancy counselling as a part of all redundancy packages negotiated by any of the organizations with which he is associated.

"I think it's an obligation on the part of companies," Hardy says. "People can't cope with these problems themselves. It is expensive, but I think it's a very good investment because, as a responsible employer, one owes it to one's staff. A few people refuse because they think it's demeaning, but I would want it if they got shot of me."

One of the main advantages of using redundancy consultants is their ability to look objectively at a job-hunter's skills and ambitions. "To find a successful career you have to take in the whole management of your life," says Christine Scott-Brown, co-founder of Intersec, one of the few outplacement agencies to take money from individual clients.

Intersec charges individuals 15 per cent of their former salary plus £2,500, to a maximum of £9,000. "People who pay from their own pocket certainly demand a lot more," Scott-Brown says. "Most people come to us for better jobs, of course. The only time we turn down people is if their aims and aspirations are not realistic."

Possibly because of the high cost of employing outplacement agencies, an increasing number of companies are training members of their staff to do the counselling in-house. Many of them are trained by CEPEC, an organization which charges £1,500 for a six-day residential course, taking on around 250 applicants a year for companies such as Marks & Spencer and ICI.

Gordon Libretto is one of ICI's several resettlement managers who were trained by CEPEC. In ICI's terms, resettlement may mean anything from finding an executive a similar job with another company to sending a craftsman on a course to become a sailing instructor.

"Basically, the objective is to help staff decide what they want to do with their future and help them implement their plans," Libretto, a former works manager and an ICI employee for 30 years, says. "We help market them and make sure they are selling their skills and wares in the best possible way."

"The service we give is confidential and non-judgemental but we don't hesitate to go to outside agencies if we need that sort of expertise or help." That normally occurs if the employee is too senior or too upset to relate to the in-house team. "On the whole, we're pretty successful," Libretto says. "People who leave ICI leave to do the things they want to do."

## Cracking solution

To ensure eating only salmonella-free eggs from salmonella-free chickens fed on salmonella-free feed, why not keep a hen-coop in the back garden? Ten Hen is a fledgling company started earlier this year by Robin Clover before the salmonella paranoia set in. "I just felt it would be nice for people to keep hens instead of plastic gnomes or pregnant rabbits," Clover says. He confesses he is delighted about the timeliness of the scare, even though keeping your own chickens is not necessarily a guarantee of safety.

"We can direct customers to salmonella-free stock and supplies of salmonella-free food, and if it concerns you then one of the best ways to minimise the risk is to keep your own, controlled supply," he says. He estimates that keeping 10 hens costs about £3 a week, for which you should get approximately 50 eggs.

The Ten Hen hen-coop, ready to assemble without nails or screws, costs £144, and purchase can include membership to the Tenhenner Club, which provides lists of pullet rearers, hen management advice, discounts on ancillary equipment, access to poultry food - delivered to your door - and the opportunity to consult Ten Hen's veterinary surgeon, as well as the new "Tenhenner Times" newsletter. There is even a "chicken-sitting service" offered during holidays. Further details from Ten Hen Ltd, The Gables, Framingham Pigot, Norwich NR14 7QJ (tel: 05086 2453).

## End of the line

There are few things more annoying than the abrupt discontinuation of the materials with which you have decorated your home. Laura Ashley's home furnishings

## BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information



## Quote me . . .

"We feel belittled by our own greed; we have to restrain ourselves from alcohol and rich food and enjoying plenty; that's a terrible thing in a hungry world." Clare Short

departments are attempting to minimize the shock that awaits customers in February when the new catalogue comes out: a mini-catalogue of "Discontinuations" is already available free from all branches. It lists, for instance, which wallpapers, fabrics and borders will be continued and which it is wise to stock up or order now. Devotees will be surprised at the incipient demise of the popular "Emma" fabric which was the inspiration for Laura Ashley's most successful perfume line, and was used in a variety of accessories from lampshades to cushions.

## Karma again?

This year's groovers have adopted the holistic approach to having a good time. From the ashes of Acid comes the latest consumer craze - New Age.

Acid House meant street style, but the New Age (NA) movement hinges on the union of mind, body and

spirit. NA has been around since the mid-Seventies, but it is only with the demise of Acid House that the upwardly mobile have been turned on by the thought of dreamy music.

NA first shook back into life on the West Coast of America. In Britain there are now several NA magazines - *New Realities*, *Link Up* and *Human Potential* - NA press coverage, tarot readings in London's clubs and a revival of interest in old, well-dressed hippies such as Jean-Michel Jarre.

NA interest is strongest in the West End and particularly around London's Covent Garden. Mysteries, a purple-painted store in Monmouth Street, has imported from California *Valley of the Sun* videos for Christmas. These are self-help tapes sending out "subliminal" messages. In theory, viewers can eliminate stress, cigarettes and alcohol from their life. New Agers have a rich choice: *Charisma* with its promise to draw people; *Attracting Love*, *Incredible Self Confidence* or possibly *Stop Punishing Yourself*.

Further details from Mysteries, 9 Monmouth Street, London WC2 (01-240 3688).

## Sow the seeds

Looking for a "green" gift for your children? Planters come in three pack-sizes, from £4.99 to £16.99, and are available from department stores, toy shops and garden centres. Ideal for budding gardeners, they allow children to grow plants from seeds in their own miniature greenhouse, with turtle and frog growers to hold seeds at the right level in a "leaf growing pond" for swift germination. Six varieties of seeds have been selected for ease of growing, including "polka dots", "herbie borage", "fragrant sweet peas", "natty nasturtiums", "marvey marrows" and "dwarf beans".

Victoria McKee

## ASTRA: THE BEST CHOICE IN SATELLITE TELEVISION

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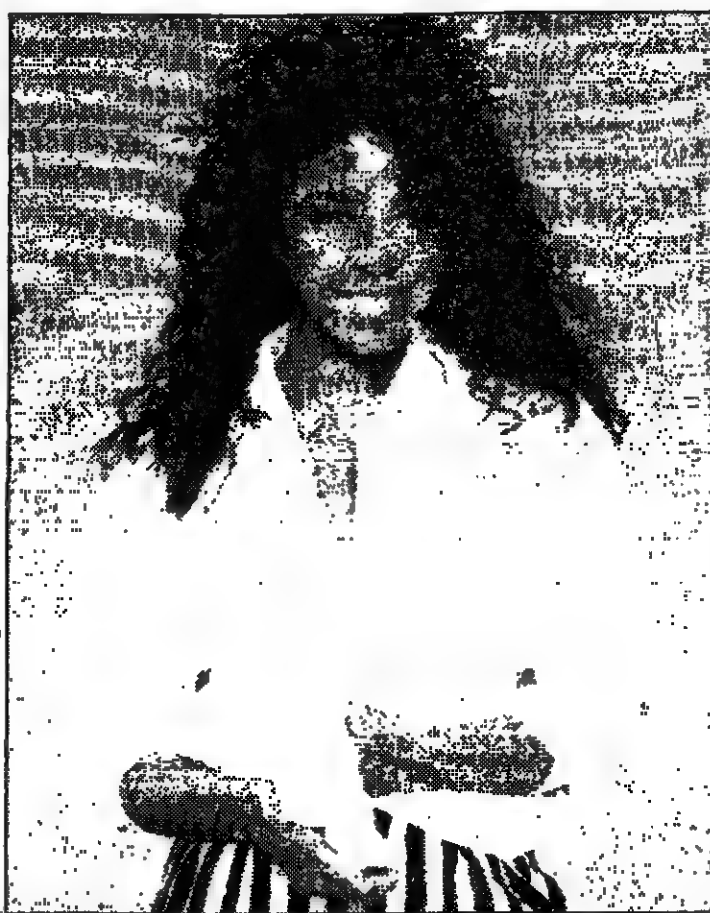
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## INFORMATION SERVICE

## A rousing performer



This week's flurry of media interest in Nat King Cole, which precedes the broadcast of a 90-minute *Arena* special (December 23, 9pm, BBC2) has not eclipsed the accidental arrival in London of his daughter, the soul singer Natalie Cole. Although she enjoyed a string of American hits in the Seventies, it is only this year that she has won comparable success in Britain. The breakthrough came with "Pink Cadillac", her limber version of a Bruce Springsteen B-side, which was followed in the charts by "Everlasting", "Jump Start" and now "I Live For Your Love", currently hovering outside the Top 40. Doubtless many new fans were alerted to her appeal by her flamboyant appearance at the Nelson Mandela concert on June 11 together with Joe Cocker. Now 38 years old, Cole first performed with her father on stage at the age of 12, but did not pick up the threads of a musical career until she was a psychology graduate in her early twenties. A rousing and energetic performer, she usually includes a version of "Nat King Cole in Love" in her show. Natalie Cole plays tomorrow and Friday at Hammersmith, Odeon, Queens Caroline Street, London W6 (01-748 4081) 7.30pm, £10.50-£12.50. David Sinclair

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

## BOOKING KEY

\* Seats available  
\* Returns only  
(D) Access for disabled

## THEATRE

## LONDON

\* **ARTIST DESCENDING**: Offbeat touching stage version of Stoppard's radio play, transferred from the King's Head, Duke of York's Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-836 8122). Tube: Leicester St. Mon-Thurs 8-9.30pm, Fri and Sat 8.30-10pm, mat 5pm and Sat 8-7.30pm, £5-£13.50.

\* **BRIGADOON**: OK revival of Lerner and Loewe's misty Scottish musical. Victoria Palace, Victoria St SW1 (01-834 1317). Tube: Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.30-10pm, mat 5pm. Sat 8-9.30pm, £5-22.00. Thurs mat, all seats half-price.

\* **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**: Jon Strickland as Scrooge in David Holman's adaptation for children and for grown-ups. The Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (01-928 6863). Tube: Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30-10pm, mat 5pm and 2pm or 7pm. Grown-ups £7-25.00, children and concessions £3.75-£7.

\* **THE ILLUSION**: ATC's dazzling production of Cuvillier's enchanted comedy. Lyric Studio Theatre, King St, W6 (01-741 2311). Tube: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 8.45pm, mat 5pm. Sat 8.45pm and Sat 8.45-10.15pm, £5. Unifit Sat.

\* **LADY AUDLEY'S SECRET**: Performance art production of the melodrama by Mrs Bradshaw, who drew on her own amazing life for the adventures of her bigamous, murderous heroine. ICA Theatre, The Mall, SW1 (01-980 3647). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 8-10pm, 10.15pm, Unifit Sat.

\* **RICHARD II**: Derek Jacobi heads a strong company, with Robert Edlison, Barbara Jefford and David Rintoul in leading roles. Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-836 2294). Tube: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat 5pm and Sat 7.30pm, £5-£12.50.

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## CLASSICAL TOP 20

- (1) Elgar: Cello Concerto... Barbirolli/LSO/Du Pré, HMV
- (2) Elgar: Cello Concerto... Barbirolli/LSO/Du Pré, CBS
- (3) Lloyd Webber: Requiem... Domingo/Brightman/ECO, HMV
- (4) Vivaldi: Four Seasons... Hogwood/AAM, L'Oiseau Lyre
- (5) Holst: The Planets... Karajan/BPO, DG
- (6) Mahler: Resurrection... Karajan/BPO, DG
- (7) Brahms: Adagio... Karajan/BPO, DG
- (8) Elgar: Cello Concerto... Menin/LSO/Decca
- (9) Mozart: Horn Concerto... Tuckwell/LSO, Decca
- (10) Mahler: Symphony 2... Dutoit/MSO, HMV
- (11) Tchaikovsky: 1812 Overture... Dutoit/MSO, HMV
- (12) Elgar/Haydn/Beethoven: Cello Concertos... ECO, EMI
- (13) Vivaldi: Four Seasons... Munchinger/LSO, Decca
- (14) Handel: Messiah Excerpts... Martin/RPO, Decca
- (15) Holst: The Planets... Karajan/BPO, DG
- (16) Vivaldi: Four Seasons... Perlmutter/LPO, HMV
- (17) Holst: The Planets... Dutoit/MSO, Decca
- (18) Chopin: Favourite... Kaczmarek/Katzen, Decca
- (19) Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto 2... Schnitt/LSO/Katzen, Decca
- (20) Sibelius: Symphony 5... Rattle/CBSO, HMV

Sources: Music Week Research

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1745

ACROSS

- Courage (4)
- Goal effort (4)
- Clean abraded (5)
- Spying (9)
- Strip of trousers (5)
- Money (3)
- Perpendicular (5)
- Liberty (7)
- Ground breaker (7)
- Raged (5)
- Curve (3)
- Deep channel (5)
- Woodward (9)
- Lebanese Muslim militia (5)
- Roadworthy youths (4)
- Minus (4)

DOWN

- Depressions (6)
- Wide Mexican hat (8)
- Genetics pioneer (6,6)
- Early warning (13,3)
- Cure (4)
- Belief in a god (6)
- Unstable situation (5,2,5)
- Reverend (5,3)
- Brave (6)
- Discoport (6)
- Clearing cloth (6)
- Scissors (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 1744

ACROSS: 1 Mount Pelion 9 Capitan 10 MESA 11 Tier 12 Hierarch 14 His 15 Log 16 POW 18 Straight 20 Trench 22 Lion 23 Astine 24 Despatch

DOWN: 1 Oppress 3 Note 4 Pinkish shears 5 Limerick 6 Miner 7 Reach 8 Scotch 13 Alliance 16 Porcupine 17 Winner 18 Salad 19 Rakes 21 Jit

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

## KNAG

(a) A knot in wood, or peg, hence a point of a stag's head, from the Low German language. The word priests and clerics to keep on nagging, nagging and nagging on nagging.

## PROCECRACY

(c) Government by beggars, the rule of paupers, loosely the poor as a class, from the Greek procecracy a beggar + -cracy from cracy ruler.

## GORKROW

(n) The Gorka Crows, from the Old English gorka + -row, from Ben Jonson: "Gorka, and gorkow, all my birds of prey, that think me turning crows, now they come."

## WYANDOTTIE

(c) A domestic breed of medium-sized domestic fow, originally from North America, named after the tribe of American Indians with the same name: "This was when the world knew Wyandotte fowl at all, but the Indians of the frontier have now given it White, Silver, Partridge, Silver-partridge, and Blue-tailed Wyandottes."

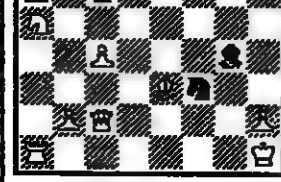
## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

## THE ABOVE POSITION IS TAKEN FROM THE GAME BETWEEN CAPT. EVANS (WHITE) AND STAMTON (BLACK), LONDON 1845.

Black plays and wins. The winning move will be given in tomorrow's solution.

Solution to yesterday's position: White wins with 1 Oxd8+



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## TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear  
and Jane RackhamUnion  
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## BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax AM.  
6.35 Leon Errol in *Spontaneous* (R/W). 6.55 Weather.  
7.00 Breakfast Time with John Stapleton and Sally Magnusson. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25; regional news and travel reports at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27. 8.55 Regional news and weather followed by Open Air. Eamonn Holmes and Mike Smith receive viewers' comments on yesterday's television programmes.  
9.20 Kilroy Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a discussion on a topical subject. News and weather followed by Going for Gold. General knowledge quiz (r). 10.25 Children's BBC introduced by Andy Crane begins with Playhouse 10.50 Paddington narrated by Sir Michael Hordern (r). 10.55 Five to Eleven. Tim Pigott-Smith with a reading.  
11.00 News and weather followed by Open Air presented by Patie Caldwell, Bob Wellings and Mike Smith.  
12.00 News and weather followed by Daytime Live presented by Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spiers. 12.55 Regional news and weather.  
1.00 Ceefax News with Philip Hayton. Weather 1.30. Neighbours. Mrs Mangel is in need of a medical check-up. 1.50 Going for Gold. European quiz game.  
2.15 Knots Landing. Abby and Galveston have a row; and the whereabouts of Val in a second round of the Christmas. Carols, songs and comment on Christmas performed by Richard Stilgoe with Broom Leys Junior Schools choir, Colville and pupils from Wollescott Primary School and Peter's Hill School, Stourbridge (r).  
2.30 The Pink Panther Show. Cartoons 3.30 Two by Two. Jenny Powell's nature series. 4.05 Lassie. Animated.  
4.35 Across the Roof of the World. A Newsround special in which Roger Fynn explores the mountain kingdom of Nepal. 5.00 Newsround 5.05 The Watch House. Episode two of a three-part ghost story.  
5.35 Neighbours (r).  
5.50 Six O'Clock News with Nicholas Witchall and Philip Hayton.  
6.30 London Plus and weather. 7.00 Wogan. Tonight's guests include Gary Glitter.  
7.35 Doctor Who. Episode one of a new four-part adventure starring Sylvester McCoy and Sophie Aldred. (Ceefax).  
8.00 Rockliffe's Paddy. The Det Sgt investigates a possible case of corruption after a valuable piece of land is sold at a bargain price. Last in the series starring Ian Hogg. (Ceefax).  
8.50 Points of View with Anna Robinson.  
9.00 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Social and Liberal Democrats.  
9.05 News with Martyn Lewis. Regional news and weather.  
9.35 The Visit. Desmond Wilton returns to Rochester, Minnesota, to check on the boy whose disfigurement has been operated on by plastic surgeon Ian Jackson over the past six years. (Ceefax).  
10.25 Sportsnight introduced by Steve Rider. Football highlights from one of tonight's FA Cup second round games. 10.50 Boxing: A British featherweight championship bout between the holder, Paul Hodgkinson, and Kevin Taylor.  
11.40 Joe Jackson in Tokyo. The singer in concert at the Nakano Sun Plaza.  
12.10am Weather.

## BBC2

- 9.00 Ceefax 1.25 Fingermouse (r). 1.40 The Historyman. Bryan McNamery on the Elizabethan gentleman Sir Thomas Tresham (r). 1.45 The First Noel. Early European carols presented by Sir Gerald Evans with the William Byrd Choir and the Choir of King's College, Cambridge (r).  
2.00 News and weather followed by The Treasures of Chiquisaca. Bolivian religious artefacts (r).  
3.00 News and weather followed by Wild World. The wildlife of New York City (r). 3.50 News. Regional news and weather.  
4.00 Catchword 4.30 Sir English Town. Tewkesbury (r). (Ceefax).  
5.00 The Perfect Pickle. The last in the series on home-made pickles. 5.30 Film 55 (r).  
6.00 DEF II begins with Mission Impossible. This week the secret agents battle with a terrorist organization (r). 8.50 Reportage includes a report on the Armenian earthquake from Russian youth television; and news of a scandal in the world of Subotko.  
2.40 Call My Bluff. In this week's edition of the obscure words game Arthur Marshall and Frank Muller are joined by Gilly Coman, Jack Klaff, Alison Mitchell and Cliff Michelmore. The questionmaster is Robert Robinson.  
8.10 Worldwide: In Search of a Real "Crocodile Dundee". (see Choice)  
9.00 Film: The Return of Captain Invincible (1983) starring Alan Arkin and Christopher Lee. Spoof adventures of the comic strip hero, set in Australia, where the hero is brought out of booby retirement to save the world from the dastardly Mr. Midnight who has stolen a top secret "typhoon-ray". Directed by Philippe Mora.  
10.30 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Social and Liberal Democrats.  
10.38 Newsnight presented by Peter Snow and Donald MacCormick. 11.20 News.  
11.25 One in Four. Magazine series on disability matters (r). Presented by Isabel Ford, Simon Barnes and Chris Davies. Ends at 12.00.

## ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am.  
6.25 Lucky Ladders. Game show hosted by Lennie Bennett. 6.55 Thames news and weather.  
10.00 The Time... The Place... Leonid Zolotarevsky in Moscow introduces an on-the-spot report from Yerevan; and talks to doctors in the Soviet capital who are treating earthquake victims. In the London studio are members of the Armenian community and pilots who have returned from the disaster area.  
10.40 This Morning. Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. This morning's edition includes an item on getting the best value from shopping choices. Plus national news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.15.  
12.10 Allsorts (r). 12.30 A Country House. Medical drama serial set in a remote Australian sheep township.  
1.00 News at One with Julia Somerville. 1.20 Thames news and weather followed by Crimewatch.  
1.30 Pinthouse Kitchen. Grace Mulligan illustrates old and new ways of preparing poultry, beef, lamb and fish. 2.00 Richmond Hill. Australian drama series. 2.15 Gardening Time. The spiderplant. 2.30 The World of David. The spiderplant. 2.35 Thames news and weather. 3.30 The Ten Daughters. Australian family drama serial.  
4.00 The Raggy Dolls. Animated adventure series. 4.30 Doghouse and the Three Musketeers. Cartoon series. 4.50 Palace Hill. Comedy series set in a school.  
5.15 Bookstars. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers presented by Bob Holness.  
12.00 The Perfume Programme with Glyn Mathias and Alastair Stewart.  
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news service presented by Susanah Simons.  
1.00 Seaside Stories. Pre-school learning series. The guest is Robin Bailey.  
2.00 Film: Whispering Smith (1938) starring Alan Ladd. Western adventure about a railroad detective investigating a series of train robberies. Directed by Leslie Fenton.  
3.40 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Women who were sexually abused in childhood talk about how it is affecting them as adults.  
4.20 African to Go. General knowledge quiz presented by William S. Stewart.  
5.00 Hand in Hand. Children's series for the deaf and hearing. (Oracle).  
6.00 Mister Ed (p/w). Vintage American comedy series starring Alan Young.  
6.00 The Beverly Hillsbillies (p/w). Comedy with the oil-rich Clampett family.  
5.45 News with Alastair Stewart.  
6.00 Thames news and weather. 6.35 Help with advice on the benefits system.  
6.50 Emma's Farm. Anna receives a storm warning.  
7.00 This is Your Life. Michael Aspel and his big red book bring tears to the eyes of another unassuming celebrity, unaware or otherwise.  
7.30 Coronation Street. Set in a town on her "health-giving" holiday by husband Alec. (Oracle).  
8.00 The O'Connor Tonight. The entertainer's guests are Cliff Richard, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Ken Dodd, Kim Wilde and the Great Escape.  
8.50 Rumple of the Bells. Judge Sir Guthrie Featherstone is in hot water for sympathizing with Rumpole's client who is accused of trying to drown his wife. (Oracle).  
10.00 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Social and Liberal Democrats.  
10.05 News with Alastair Stewart and Alastair Stewart. 10.35 Thames news and weather.  
10.40 Michael Scott Special. Boxing: two British title fights from the York Hall, Bethnal Green. Gary Streich v John Ashton and Tony Wilson against Tom Collins. Football: Littlewoods Cup replay. 11.00 The World of David. Judge Sir Guthrie Featherstone is in hot water for sympathizing with Rumpole's client who is accused of trying to drown his wife. (Oracle).  
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6.00 Mister Ed (p/w). Vintage American comedy series starring Alan Young.  
6.00 The Beverly Hillsbillies (p/w). Comedy with the oil-rich Clampett family.

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.30 Voices of War. The last in the series on the experiences of the First World War through personal letters, photographs, diaries and archive footage. (Oracle).  
7.00 Channel 4 News with Peter Scallions and Nicholas Owen.  
7.50 Countdown followed by Weather.  
8.00 Brookside. Kirsty confronts Rod about Tommo's party. (Oracle).  
8.30 Dispatches. The previously untold story of a 1945 massacre of Polish partisans by Russian troops and pro-Russian Polish security forces.  
8.15 Signals. Interviews with the directors of the Royal Opera House, the National Theatre, the Tate Gallery and the Victoria and Albert Museum.  
10.15 The Great. Los Angeles newspaper drama.  
11.15 The Great. Los Angeles newspaper drama.  
12.15am Jaco Pastorius. The late bassist in concert.  
1.30 Mings (p/w). A 1988 film in which the composer and musician talks about his life and music, interspersed with examples of his style. Ends at 2.30.  
12.30 The Party. 4.00-5.00 Night Beat.  
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Mr Arafat giving his traditional victory salute at the United Nations in Geneva yesterday where the seats of the Israeli delegation remained empty throughout the PLO leader's speech

**Leading article, page 17**

## A bird's-eye view of the egg crisis

especially encouraging sign. But there may be aspects of Government policy for the elderly that one had overlooked.

\_\_\_\_\_



Political sketch  
bird's-eye view  
the egg crisis

MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1422.4 (-7.0)	US dollar 1.8405 (-0.0100)
FT-SE 100 1747.9 (-2.4)	W German mark 3.2082 (+0.0011)
USM (Dollars) 147.02 (-2.25)	Trade-weighted 78.2 (same)

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

## Mrs Fields sells UK operation

Mrs Fields, the cookie business run by Mrs Debbie Fields, the American businesswoman, is selling the four British outlets that make up its troubled UK operation for \$2.9 million (£1.58 million).

The business is being injected into a new company, Mrs Fields Europe, which will be controlled by the French food group, Midial.

## Carlton £49m

Carlton Communications, Europe's largest television services company, made profits of £49.1 million last year, topping by £1.1 million the forecast made at the time of its £460 million bid for Technicolor. Total dividends are 7.5p per share.

## Blade barred

Blade Investments, a futures and options broker of 150 Brompton Road, Chelsea, London has been barred from trading by the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers (AFBD) and the Securities Association (TSA).

STOCK MARKETS
New York Dow Jones 2156.25 (+12.80)
Nikkei Average 2667.23 (-121.23)
Hong Kong Hang Seng 2665.94 (-5.42)
Amsterdam Gen 277.4 (+0.1)
Sydney AO 1498.4 (-1.6)
Frankfurt DAX-Index 1807.7 (-8.7)
Brussels General 5414.5 (+8.6)
Paris CAC 368.8 (+2.9)
Zurich S&K Gen 516.1 (+2.3)
London FT-A All-Share 901.33 (-1.79)
FT-100 973.25 (-1.57)
FT Gold Mines 774.6 (-2.2)
FT Fixed Interest 96.65 (-0.02)
FT Govt Secs 96.79 (+0.02)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES
RUSSE G Wimpey 252.5p (+9.5p)
UEI 383.5p (+14p)
Barton Transport 70.5p (+20p)
Dodds 117.0p (+1.5p)
Linnit 344.5p (+11p)
Thomson T-Line 77.0p (+25p)
Armstrong 189p (+11p)

FALLS
Tate & Lyle 802.5p (-22p)
Hevelink Europe 185p (-10p)
A Cohen 90.0p (-19p)
Thom EMI 908.5p (-12p)
Body Shop 78.5p (-2.5p)
Conder Group 397.5p (-15p)
Blockways 280p (-15p)
S Miller 144.5p (-11p)
Wilson Bowden 184.5p (-11p)
YRM 75p (-13p)
Courts Furniture 157.5p (-12p)
Sock Shop 195p (-12p)
Int Thomson 67.0p (-20p)
Closing prices
Bargains 21901
SEAG Volume 461.4m

INTEREST RATES
London Bank Base 15%
3-month interbank 13%-13.5%
3-month eligible bills 12.1%-12.5%
buying rate
US Prime Rate 10.5%
Federal Funds 8.75%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.86-7.88%
30-year bonds 100%-100.5%

CURRENCIES
London New York
\$1.8405
DM3.2082
Sfr2.2082
FF10.9510
Yen226.01
Index78.2
EDU 20.64506
SDR 12.73496

GOLD
London Fixing
AM \$421.00 pm \$420.00
COM \$419.50-420.00 (22.57-22.60)
New York
Comex \$420.70-421.20

NORTH SEA OIL
Brent (Jan) pm \$14.85bbl (\$14.80)
* Denotes latest trading price

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH
0898 141 141

Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: bid speculation was again a positive factor on an otherwise dull day with Avdel (01110) 8p better and Thomson T Line (03190) gaining 17p; interest rate fears yet again saw builders and property companies under pressure with Stanley Miller (02214) down 13p and Rosehaugh (02421) shedding 14p; Hammerston A (02817) lost 19p awaiting developments in the Rodamco bid.

Recent additions include: Egerton 9% pref allotment letter 03522; Rockware 7% conv pref 03523; Bostrom 03524.

Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

# Drop in retail sales eases base rate fear

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Retail sales fell last month after rising strongly in October. The Treasury said the figures, taken with other indicators, could be the first signs of a slowing of demand in the economy.

However, the City was cautious about reading too much into the fall, in what has been a highly erratic statistical series. The index of retail sales volume fell 0.5 per cent to 140.5 (1980 = 100) last month after rising 2 per cent in October. Sales were 5.2 per cent up on a year earlier.

In the latest three months, sales volume was up by 0.9 per cent on the previous three months, and by 5.5 per cent on a year earlier. The weekly value of sales last month was £2,425 million, not seasonally adjusted, against £2,230 million in October and 9 per cent up on a year earlier.

The figures had been keenly awaited in the City but, while the fall in volume last month was seen as easing the upward pressure on base rates, market reaction was muted. Shares scored modest gains in quiet trading, and the pound was marked down briefly on the belief that a further rise in base rates was unlikely in the short term.

The latest Confederation of British Industry/Financial Times distributive trades survey, pointing to strong retail sales last month, added to difficulties of interpretation. Mr Ian Hawwood, economist at Warburg Securities, said: "One has to ask how reliable these figures are. But if retail demand is slowing, it could have a fairly prompt effect on the trade figures."

Retailers are gloomy about prospects, particularly in the new year. Warnings from Burton and Next, together with pre-Christmas discount sales, suggest that the clothing and footwear sector has been most hit, although the DTI said the sales of food and household goods fell back last month.

"November was a bad month for the clothing trade," said Mr Nick Bubb, retailing analyst at Morgan Stanley. "People are always going to spend on Christmas gifts, but there is no doubt that consumer confidence has been hit. The new year is going to be a bumpy time."

Mr Richard Weir, director general of the Retail Consortium, said: "The Chancellor's measures are beginning to have the effect of tapering off consumer demand."

However, he added, the current slowdown in sales growth had to be put into the perspective of a very high level of overall demand, albeit one that was not living up to retailers' high hopes. Figures from the John Lewis Partnership for the week ending December 3 suggested that sales were strong but below target after the November 25 rise in base rates, which came too late to have much effect on the DTI's November retail sales data. The strongest sales were at the John Lewis Edinburgh store, up 16 per cent on a year earlier.

Sterling stabilized after early weakness. It fell by a cent to \$1.8405, but rose by half a penny to DM3.2095. Producer price figures for last month showed no increase in inflationary pressures from industry. Output prices at the factory gate rose 0.3 per cent on the month but the 12-month rate of increase, at 4.8 per cent, was only fractionally up on the 4.7 per cent recorded for October.

Input prices rose by 1.5 per cent in November, for a 12-month rise of 4.1 per cent.

## Profit rise strengthens defence against Elders



Bottled profits: Alick Rankin, S&N chief, unveiling a 26% jump in interim results yesterday

## Surprise leap to £72m for S&N

By Cliff Feltham

Mr Alick Rankin, chief executive of Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, yesterday fired a shot across the bows of Elders Ltd, with sharply higher interim profits.

The 26 per cent jump to £72 million at the pre-tax level was several million pounds more than expected. Many analysts had thought S&N would hold something in reserve in case the Monopolies and Mergers Commission decided to give Elders the go-ahead to resume its takeover campaign.

But Mr Rankin said: "We have no intention of getting up to funny things with our figures. As far as we are concerned the latest results show the growth we have been achieving and are confident we can carry on achieving."

Sales in the six months to end-October rose from £429 million to £510 million while earnings per share rose from 11.4p to 12.9p. Shareholders collect an interim dividend of 3.10p, up from 2.70p last time.

The results showed good improvement in all divisions. The brewing side, benefiting from the Matthew Brown acquisition, saw volume growth of more than 3 per cent and there was a strong performance from its leading brands.

The group's chain of 34 Thistle Hotels - eight in central London - increased profits, even though numbers of US visitors fell due to the strong pound, causing occupancy levels to slip back.

"While the continued rise in interest rates is a most unwelcome feature, the first few weeks' trading in the second half-year provide a thoroughly encouraging indicator and we feel optimistic about trading prospects," said Sir David Nickson, the S&N chairman.

Mr David Thompson, managing director of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, reported a 19.4 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year to October to a record £26.7 million. He believes higher interest rates will cause little harm to the industry.

"It is very difficult to read the economy but we have always considered that any action which reins back the amount of money people spend on white goods and foreign holidays is particularly good for us," he said.

Earnings per share rose 19 per cent to 26.9p, while the total dividend was up 19.7 per cent to 7p a share.

## US group criticizes tactics of revised \$5.49bn offer Pillsbury still rejects GrandMet

By John Bell, City Editor

Pillsbury, the United States bread to beefburgers food group, has rejected a revised \$5.49 billion (£3 billion) takeover offer from Grand Metropolitan. The Pillsbury board's decision was unanimous.

The higher offer, and its rejection, followed the first direct negotiations between the chairman of the two groups, Mr Philip Smith of Pillsbury and Mr Allen Sheppard of GrandMet.

At the weekend, Mr Sheppard indicated that he was prepared to go even higher than the \$63-per-share offer revealed yesterday.

"We made it clear to the board of Pillsbury that we were prepared to increase our tender offer to \$65 per share if the board would agree over the weekend to recommend this offer," Mr Sheppard said.

He also wanted the US group to agree to settle all legal actions, including that relating to the "poison pill" which would enable Pillsbury to issue substantial amounts of new stock.

"We added that if the board of Pillsbury did not accept this proposal, then we would announce an increased tender offer but at a price lower than \$65. After considering our proposal, the board of Pillsbury declined to recommend an offer of \$65 per share."

He stressed that Mr Smith had told Mr Sheppard that his board might consider offers in the region of \$68 to \$73 per share.

Meanwhile, Pillsbury shares rose sharply in early Wall Street trading. In late morning deals they were changing hands at around \$62. But share traders felt that the tide of events was swinging GrandMet's way, pending the outcome of a Delaware court challenge of the poison pill defence, scheduled to begin late yesterday.

"If GrandMet wins in court, Pillsbury is a goner instantly. If GrandMet loses, Pillsbury is still a goner, but it'll take a month," an arbitrageur said.

Miss June Page, analyst at Bear Stearns, said the value Pillsbury placed on itself was exceptionally high. "They must be using a lot of mirrors," she said, adding that she viewed \$65 as a steep price as well.

## Ladbroke bids for Thomson T-Line

By Geoffrey Foster

Shares of Thomson T-Line, the industrial holdings group, soared 27p to 77p on news of a surprise 80p-a-share cash offer from Ladbroke.

Mr Cyril Stein's Hilton hotels-to-betting shops group. The offer, which includes a loan note alternative, is conditional on Thomson's shareholders not approving the proposed £300 million-plus acquisition of Suter, the mini-conglomerate, at the extraordinary general meeting called for December 21.

Thomson T-Line and Suter agreed terms for a merger last month, after weeks of acrimonious negotiation, and Ladbroke's late intervention for Thomson caught everyone in the market by surprise.

The terms were announced after Ladbroke had purchased two million Thomson shares in the market at prices ranging from 53p to 74p.

It is obvious that Mr Stein has made his move for Thomson T-Line in order to obtain Vernon Pools, acquired by Thomson by private treaty for £90 million last February. Ladbroke sees considerable opportunity to exploit Vernon's market position - it has 21 per cent of the pools business - and generate substantially higher returns in a highly cash-generative business.

Ladbroke would dispose of Thomson T-Line's industrial businesses, which include distribution of electrical and electronic components, industrial cables and fasteners.

Ladbroke's offer represents a premium of 56 per cent over Friday's closing price of 51p for Thomson T-Line.

## New bank watchdog is named

By Vivien Goldsmith

The new Banking Ombudsman is Mr Laurence Shurman, aged 58, a solicitor with a zeal for finding ways of settling disputes outside the courts.

Mr Shurman, a managing partner with the solicitor Kingsley Napley since 1975, is a member of Justice, the all-party lawyers' pressure group which was instrumental in setting up the Parliamentary Commissioner - the first ombudsman.

He is also a past president of the City of Westminster Law Society which was involved in the pilot scheme for the small claims courts. Mr Shurman takes up his new job on March 6.

The Ombudsman is called in when a dispute between a bank and a customer has exhausted all avenues of complaint within a member bank. He has the authority to order awards up to £100,000, although none has been made.

## Parker investors call off takeover

By Wolfgang Münch

The £180 million takeover deal between Parker Pen and Pentland Industries, which the Reebok sports shoes group, was called off last night, following the decision by some institutional shareholders in Parker Pen to withdraw only hours before it was due to be signed.

It is understood that one shareholder involved is Schroder Ventures, which holds a 30 per cent stake in Parker Pen, and was instrumental in Parker's management buyout from its parent, the US Parker Group, three years ago. The disagreement was said to be over two technical points.

The failure of the talks represents a serious setback for the Parker management, following the abandonment last year of plans to float Parker on the stock market, as the future of the company has once been thrown into doubt.

Mr Frank Farrant, finance director of Pentland, said that the deal was a setback for Pentland in so far as much time has been wasted. He blamed the attitude of the institutional investor for the failure to reach agreement.

He said: "The management of Parker and Pentland were getting on well together. We were very impressed with the Parker management. This must be a warning lesson for management buyout firms, which are planning to go to bed with some institutional investors."

## Saunders' £662,000 legal bills

The former Guinness chairman, Mr Ernest Saunders, has run up legal bills of £1 million in two years and owes his lawyers £662,000.

Promises of huge donations for a fighting fund never materialized, a High Court judge was told yesterday.

Mr Saunders, aged 51, who faces criminal charges and a £5.2 million claim against him arising from the 1986 Distillers takeover bid, asked the judge for legal aid.

Mr Justice Henry will give his decision today.

Mr Saunders' counsel, Mr Tony Shaw, said he was "unemployed and in real terms unemployable." He added: "The difficulty at this stage is quite simply cash."

Mr Shaw said his UK assets, which included cash and a plantation in Scotland, were much reduced and frozen by an injunction. He has sold £250,000 worth of shares to pay legal bills.

## Chesterfield appears as white knight with £7m bid Curtain set to fall on Maybox drama

By Rosemary Unsworth

It looks as if the last act has been played in the drama of who owns one of London's major theatre companies. Maybox, the public quoted company which runs six of London's West End theatres, has found a white knight in Chesterfield Properties, its fellow theatre owner. Chesterfield, which runs the Phoenix and Comedy theatres as well as the Curzon chain of cinemas, has made an agreed £7.1 million bid for Maybox to stop it falling into the clutches of Stoll Moss, the rival London theatre operator.

Chesterfield, which has offered the same £2.50 a share as Stoll Moss, has however received irrevocable undertakings from 77.7 per cent of Maybox's 50 shareholders. The deal is expected to go through at an extraordinary general meeting to be held by the end of next month.

The drama started last month when Maybox's two chief executives, Mr Bill Freedman and Mr Stephen Waley-Cohen - son of Sir Bernard, a former Lord Mayor of London - decided to mount a management buyout for Maybox. They offered £1.52 a share, or £4.34 million, for the company which owns and operates the Albery, Criterion, Piccadilly, Whitehall and Wyndham theatres.

### FLY WITH ARROWS AND ENHANCE YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

We are pleased to announce the launch of the  
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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Babbit buy boosts GGT to £2.4 million

Gold Greenlees Trott, the advertising and marketing group best known for the Holsten Pils and the Government's employment training commercials, has increased pre-tax profits from £1.49 million to £2.46 million in the six months to October 31. The results were above market expectations but the shares dropped 5p to 248p following the announcement. Turnover increased from £26.57 million to £33.28 million.

The results reflect a first-time contribution from Babbit & Reiman, the US agency based in Atlanta, Georgia, which was acquired in May for £1.26 million. In October GGT bought BDGH Communications, Britain's largest regional advertising agency, for £14 million. Earnings per share rose from 10.35p to 15.66p. The interim dividend was doubled to 3p.

## Two Leading Leisure deals Lodge Care's £5.8m sell-off

Leading Leisure is making two acquisitions for a total of about £3.9 million. They are Browns Pleasure Park at Sandown, Isle of Wight, for £3 million in cash and Rains Discotheque in Southend for £900,000. The Rains deal is being funded by the issue of 519,630 new shares and £450,000 in cash. The 70-acre Browns site includes two 14-hole pitch and putt courses.

Lodge Care is selling 12 of its homes for a cash price of £5.8 million to a consortium headed by Mr Mahmood Alilbhai. The 12 homes comprise eight nursing homes and four residential care homes. Lodge Care still owns 11 nursing homes and four residential care homes. The disposal leaves Lodge Care with a substantial cash surplus to reduce borrowings.

## Holmes at the double

Holmes & Marchant, the marketing services group, has almost doubled pre-tax profits from £2.38 million to £4.5 million in the year to September 30. Turnover increased from £14.41 million to £30.33 million. There was also a £1.44 million profit on property realisation.

Earnings per share have risen from 15.0p to 25.8p. The final dividend is 3.55p per share making 6p, an increase from 4.45p last year. The company hopes to benefit from the introduction of the single European market in 1992, which it believes will create an increased demand for its services.

## Everest in £8.8m Ranks acquisition

Everest Foods has agreed to acquire Ashford of Stourbridge, a distributor and wholesaler of frozen foods in the West Midlands. The consideration of about £3 million is to be satisfied in cash on completion from the company's own resources. It is not expected to dilute Everest's earnings per share. Ashford has net assets of about £771,000.

Ranks Hovis McDougall has acquired Overseal Foods for £8.8 million. Overseal, based near Burton, Staffordshire, started as a yeast processing business. It expanded by developing a range of natural colours for the food and soft drink industries. This has led to continued growth over the past six years, making it the leading British producer of natural colours.

## Courtaulds in NZ buy

Courtaulds is buying the New Zealand group Epiglass for an undisclosed sum thought to be around £7 million. Epiglass is a leading supplier of marine, industrial and consumer paints in New Zealand and also operates in Australia and Singapore.

Courtaulds is currently completing the acquisition of the 44 per cent minority which it does not own in Taubmans Industries, which also operates in Australia and New Zealand. Courtaulds says that it will run the Epiglass brands separately.

## S&amp;N fires its ammunition early

Scottish & Newcastle Breweries has detonated ammunition it could have used later if the Monopolies Commission clears the way for Elders IXL to resume takeover hostilities.

No one would have been at all surprised to see S&N producing interim figures sufficient to maintain its credibility but with just a hint of much better to come.

But against most analysts' expectations of £68 million to £70 million, S&N reported pre-tax profits of £72 million for the six months to the end of October, a rise of 26 per cent.

Beer profits, which included a first-time contribution from Matthew Brown, were particularly encouraging. The new business probably contributed about £3.5 million at the pre-tax level.

Stripping out the Matthew Brown contribution, S&N showed an advance of around 17 per cent.

Wholesale beer sales gained from the group's strong brands such as McEwan's Lager, Beck's Premium Lager, and Newcastle Brown Ale.

S&N probably saw volume growth of more than 3 per cent and also improved its market share. Pricing of the brands appears to be firm, reflected in still healthy margins.

S&N is also making slow but steady progress with low-alcohol drinks, which repre-

sent an investment in the future.

This Hotel - earmarked for sale if Elders has its way - raised profits even though the strong pound caused a fall in the number of US visitors at its central London hotels.

But there was a strong performance in the provinces, leaving occupancy levels about 2 per cent down overall. Room rates, however, remain firm.

Both Moray Firth Maltings and Waverley Vineyards, its wines and spirits division, improved profits through volume and margin growth.

For the current year, S&N looks likely to make pre-tax profits of £135 million to £138 million with earnings per share of around 22p.

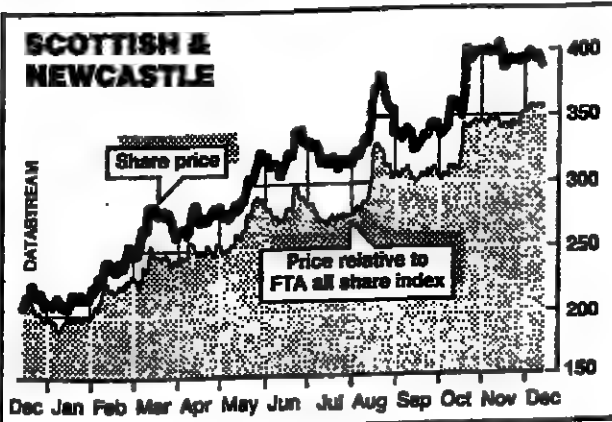
At 387p, the shares are changing hands at 17.5 times prospective earnings, which represents the sort of appropriate rating for a company in the middle of a takeover campaign.

But on purely trading grounds the rating is generous, especially when the likes of Bass stand on a p/e of about nine.

## Carlton

If ever a company was in the right place at the right time it is surely Mr Michael Green's Carlton Communications.

Thanks to far-sighted corporate planning and deft execution, Carlton is the larg-



est television services business in Europe.

Now it stands to gain mightily from deregulation, rapid advances in technology and the switch to video for sale as a rental alternative.

To cap all of this, Mr Green has bagged Technicolor, the largest film and video cassette processor in the world, through a deal that will have no adverse impact on earnings per share in its first year.

Profits for the year to end-September made no impact on the market, even though at £49.1 million they showed a 46 per cent advance on the previous 12 months. In fact, Carlton shares sagged 7p to 617p in a dull market.

The figures were overshadowed last September when, along with the rights issue to fund the Technicolor purchase, Mr Green forecast not less than £48 million.

Adjusting for acquisitions, Carlton's existing operations scorched along, showing an underlying growth rate of about 35 per cent or higher.

TVI, which caters mainly for independents, is coping with unprecedented demand for London facilities and, as the largest satellite transmission facility in Europe, is looking for another booming year.

The group's video post-production facilities can do so many clever things these days that more advertisers are opting for them as an alternative to expensive on-location production.

Without Technicolor, the group looked well set for 30 per cent growth to profits of about £65 million this year.

Including the new US acquisition, close on £110 million is on the cards, giving

share earnings of around 53p. The shares are therefore changing hands at about 11½ times earnings - a premium to the market which seems entirely deserved.

They have the look of a bargain for those prepared to wait even a year, by which time the proliferation of new television programming and the rapid expansion of the so-called "sell-through" video market (purchases to keep rather than rent) will be better appreciated than it is today.

## Dowty

Dowty is not only winning City friends through its more open-door policy, but also through progressively improving results, of which the latest interim set is another example.

On a turnover up by 24 per cent at £352 million in the half year ended September 30, pre-tax profit is 28 per cent higher at £32.5 million (£25.4 million) and the purse strings have been eased with a 14.3 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 3.2p a share.

Aerospace activities continue to lead the profits table, bringing in £16.9 million of operating profits totalling £35.1 million, and will continue to give Dowty its flavour.

However, information tech-

nology (into which CASE was recently absorbed) is developing fast, and growing markets and expanding product application should have an increasing impact on the profits line.

Up for sale are the mining division, and the hydraulic pump and motor and the railway businesses of the industrial arm, which will not fit the Dowty of the 1990s.

Total net assets of the two divisions for sale are around the £60 million mark, which if realized in full would easily cancel out group borrowings.

However, with borrowings secured largely at respectable interest rates and even more being earned on capital employed (22.0 per cent in the last full financial year) an element of gearing will remain a feature of Dowty's life.

A growing order book for new Airbus and Boeing aircraft suggests the civil side of Dowty's aerospace division will continue to move forward, helped in turn by strong prospects on the defence front.

Pre-tax profits could well reach the £80 million mark (£64.1 million) this financial year to put the shares at 209p, up 5p, on a prospective rating of 10, backed by a 5 per cent yield.

The shares are worth buying for their defensive qualities.

## Court defers ruling over AMP merger

By Our City Staff

An application by London Life, Britain's oldest mutual insurers, for High Court approval of its merger plans with the Australian Mutual Provident, Australasia's biggest life insurer, was adjourned yesterday until a date to be fixed in February.

The new court date will give time for a fresh vote to be taken on the merger proposal at an extraordinary general meeting convened by London Life's board for Friday, January 27.

The adjournment was opposed by two policy holders, Mr Stephen Walkley, from

Lutterworth, Leicestershire, and Mr Christopher Whitney, a freelance management consultant from Farnborough, Herefordshire, who appeared in court in person.

Mr Walkley said more information from London Life should be included in a new circular and a statement of views of objectors to the scheme.

Mr Philip Heslop QC, seeking the adjournment on behalf of London Life, told Mr Justice Hoffmann London Life's board believed the merger was beneficial but would convene a new EGM.

## Carless fight continues despite Kelt 71% claim

By John Bell, City Editor

Carless, the oil and chemicals group, is still fighting the £208 million takeover bid from Kelt Energy even though Kelt claims to speak for more than 71 per cent of Carless shares.

Carless urged shareholders not to accept the offer and pointed out that although Kelt's offer has been declared unconditional as to acceptances, there were several conditions to be satisfied before the offer could be declared wholly unconditional.

Mr George Magan, whose company JO Hambro Magan is advising Carless, said that in theory it was still possible for the Kelt offer to lapse.

"Approval is still needed, for example, from the Department of Energy to the change of licences held by Carless," he said. "Until other conditions are satisfied we shall recom-



Magan offer could lapse if shareholders take no action.

Kelt regards the fulfilment of other conditions as largely a matter of time for the completion of formalities.

Mr Alasdair Locke, Kelt's chief executive, said: "Now

that we are effectively in control of Carless we shall be considering the flood of offers which we have already received in connection with the planned disposal of Carless's downstream assets."

City sources suggest that Kelt will seek to recoup as much as £100 million of its purchase price through sales of Carless assets. Kelt intends to retain control of the upstream (oil and gas production and exploration) assets.

Among the assets to be sold are 570 petrol stations, a fuel distribution network, bottled gas business and the chemicals and solvents divisions.

"We are then left with an interest in the Wyth Farm field, which seems to get bigger and bigger, Humby Grove and a number of other exploration interests in the UK," said Mr Locke.

## Whitcroft overcomes textile fall

By Wolfgang Munchausen

Whitcroft, the textile, building products, lighting and property conglomerate, increased pre-tax profits by 25 per cent from £4.83 million to £6.03 million in the six months to September 30.

The increase came despite a sharp fall in the company's textile division, where operating profits dropped from £1.87 million to £532,000 as a result of the strength of sterling and a poor autumn season.

The company said sales in the second half had picked up substantially, with final profits expected at about £2 million, compared with £3.85 million last year.

Most of the increase came from the property division, up from £934,000 to £2.29 million, and the building products businesses, up from £968,000 to £2.13 million.

Mr Peter Gould, joint managing director, said he expected property profits to be sustainable since the company was engaged mainly in building houses in the North, where house-buying and building was still booming.

There was an extraordinary credit of £16.57 million, representing the sale of the builders' merchant businesses to Needwood in July.

Group turnover increased from £65.56 million to £71.77 million. Earnings per share rose from 10.25p to 12.79p and the interim dividend was raised from 3.45p to 4.10p. Whitcroft shares fell 3p to 302p after the announcement.

## FKB interim soars 89% to £2.56m

FKB Group, the sales promotion and marketing services group, reported an 89 per cent jump in pre-tax profits, from £1.36 million to £2.56 million, for the six months to end-September.

The group's turnover increased from £12.57 million to £23.49 million, with earnings per share rising 31 per cent from 6.43p to 8.45p. An interim dividend of 2p is declared, unchanged from last time.

Mr Alfred Singer, the chairman, said that with first-time contributions from recent acquisitions - American Consulting Corporation and DAD Financial in the United States, and Burrows Bew and Moore in Britain - the outlook was for another record year.

## NFC float 'within weeks'

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

National Freight Consortium, which is changing its name to NFC, is expected to float within a matter of weeks, either in late January or early February. It is likely to have a valuation of about £650 million.

At an extraordinary general meeting, NFC agreed a number of changes to its articles to prepare for the flotation. The name change has been put through because NFC's base has widened beyond its freight beginnings.

Its product range now spans transport, distribution, home services, travel and property. Among its subsidiary operations is Pickfords Travel, one of the big four travel agency chains, and the Pickfords removals service.

A crucial change effectively gives employees of NFC double voting rights, through a "special" share held by a trustee which will carry the same number of votes as are held by employees. This will enable the company better to resist any hostile takeover bid. However, the special share arrangement will lapse if employee ownership of NFC shares falls below 10 per cent.

When NFC is floated a simultaneous rights issue is planned to raise up to £100 million.

## EIS wins Russian deal

By Our City Staff

Francis Shaw and Co (Manchester), the EIS Group subsidiary, has won contracts worth more than £11 million to design and equip complete factories for the rubber processing industries in the Soviet Union and China.

Technosimport (USSR), the buying subsidiary of the Soviet Union's ministry of oil and petrochemicals, has placed an order for the latest technology and equipment for

two complete factories at Kursk and Saransk, near Moscow, for the manufacture of high-pressure braided hose, principally for use in hydraulics systems.

The factories are expected to be in full production by mid-1990.

Dunlop International Projects has ordered machines as part of a project for a complete facility for a Chinese steel radial car tyre plant.

## COMPANY BRIEFS

**PALMERSTON HLDG (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £1.54 (£1.25m)  
EPS: (adj) 5.60 (3.66p)  
Div: 2.75p

**BEN PRIEST GROUP (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £3.28 (£1.50m)  
EPS: 1.19 (0.99p)  
Div: 0.3 (0.2p)

**SAFELAND (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £1.03 (£0.45m)  
EPS: 4.50 (1.94p)  
Div: 0.67 (0.2p)

**TEX HOLDINGS (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £0.86 (£0.45m)  
EPS: 9.1 (6.4p)  
Div: 2.6 (1.75p)

**COMPCO HOLDINGS (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £0.35 (£0.31m)  
EPS: 10.79 (9.68p)  
Div: nil (22.67p)

**HAYLOCK EUROPA (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £1.39 (£1.72m)  
EPS: 6.92 (8.16p)  
Div: 2.6 (2.6p)

**ALEX RUSSELL (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £1.61 (£1.05m)  
EPS: 3.71 (2.28p)  
Div: 0.54 (0.54p)

Company has acquired a further £7.10 million in commercial premises and looks forward to continued progress.

Group's sound financial position enables it to invest in opportunities for development.

Turnover £6.72 (£2.43m). Prospects for all areas of the Group's activities are promising.

With high level of activity and acquisitions made in first half directors are confident of another successful year.

Marketing of Godalming office development being well received and considerable interest is being shown.

The unchanged dividend reflects the directors' confidence in the group's prospects. Dividend pays January 31.

UK coal division making good profits. Quarries and concrete roofing tile business also having a good year.

## ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
AUT 527	CU 572	Lacoste 97	Sutton 231
Abbey 2,475	Cone 2,547	LIG 1,117	Tanbury 1,207
Ad-Lynx 3,240	Cookson 2,557	Lloyds 2,769	Scott & N 1,131
Amersat 2,338	Courtside 1,469	Lucas 6,742	Sears 4,249
ASDA 1,426	Dalgety 85	Lucy 155	Sevens 94
AB Foods 41	Oxona 783	Magnat 155	Shel 1,514
Argyle 8,854	SCC 366	Mall 6,048	Shebs 895
BAA 2,064	Sherratt 285	Marshall Cn 438	Shelby 514
BET 1,288	Farran 1,227	MIS Group 799	Smith & N 1,734
BTH 2,442	Fisons 1,250	MSPC 1,833	Smith Int 251
BAT 1,558	FN Back 2,028	Norfolk 1,083	Smiths Ind 251
Bancory 2,054	Gateway Cp 1,653	Norfolk 1,083	Smiths Ind 251
Bell 1,473	Gm Acc 285	Nort 4,207	Stain Chart 1,487
Beecham 808	GE 13,155	Nth Food 413	Storehouse 2,828
Besser 107	Glen 8,178	PID 723	Sun Alliance 194
Berwin EW 2,828	Globe Int 466	Pearl 8	T & N 127
BICC 1,088	Glynwed 240	Pearson 23	Tarmac 1,645
Blue Arrow 6,593	Granville 1,090	Pickering 1,488	Tate & Lyle 128
Blue Circle 894	Grand M 2,940	Plumley 2,593	Taylor Wood 85
BOC 580	GUS A 484	Poly Pack 137	TSS 2,121
Boots 1,081	GRI 1,688	Prudential 2,799	Tesco 3,283
BPI 781	GUN 468	Racal 2,082	Thorn EMI 1,855
Br Aero 1,347	Guinness 808	Racal Tele 1,823	Totally 1,250
Br Airways 858	Hamm A 248	RH Howe 301	THF 2,794
Br Comm 485	Hewlett 7,788	Rank 671	Unicomp 2,713
Br Gas 4,472	H & C 77	RAC 77	Unicomp 2,713
Br Land 823	Hillier 551	Reed 551	Unicomp 2,713
Br Petrol 4,118	Hilldown 2,077	Reed 551	Unicomp 2,713
Br Telecom 1,559	HL 1,559	Reed 551	Unicomp 2,713
Bunzl 343	ICI 482	RITC Gp 341	Unicomp 2,713
Burnham 1,929	Incipac 598	RTZ 1,458	Unicomp 2,713
Calsonic 1,913	Ingersoll 1,298	Ryco 1,298	Unicomp 2,713
Cash 1,813	Ladbro 310	Ryco 1,298	Unicomp 2,713
Cash 1,813	Ladbro 310	Ryco 1,298	Unicomp 2,713
Cash 1,813	Ladbro 310	Ryco 1,298	Unicomp 2,713



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# Dewey Warren launches £23m bid for Argyle Trust

By Wolfgang Mischau

Dewey Warren, the USM-quoted shell company and formerly Mr Robert Holmes & Court's investment vehicle, has launched an agreed bid for Argyle Trust, its former parent company, which specialises in secured lending in South-east England, for about £22.9 million in cash and unsecured loan stock.

The takeover, which had been widely rumoured, followed the sale of a 29.9 per cent stake in Dewey Warren by Bond Corporation, Mr Alan Bond's Australian brewing conglomerate, to Robert Fraser, a small London mer-

chant bank headed by Mr Colin Emsom. Dewey Warren also owns 5.6 per cent of Morgan Grenfell, a stake rumoured to be up for sale.

Following the announcement of Mr Bond's share sale, the Dewey Warren share price slipped 9p to 122p, while Argyle Trust shares rose 3p to 95p.

Dewey Warren is offering 73p in cash and 36p nominal convertible unsecured loan stock 1995, which, it is claimed, value Argyle shares at 107p.

Dewey Warren, which recently floated off its Lloyd's

insurance business, joined the USM in 1983 when it was itself floated off by Argyle, the company it is now taking over.

The deputy chairman of Argyle Trust is Mr Nick Oppenheim, who is also a director at Dewey Warren and likely to be appointed deputy chairman of Dewey Warren following the deal. It is understood the deal will give Dewey Warren the opportunity to move to a full listing.

Argyle Trust has made pre-tax profits of £1.1 million on gross income of £5.72 million last year. But Mr Oppenheim has warranted profits of at

least £3 million for this year, but on condition that Dewey Warren makes £15 million available to Argyle Trust following the deal.

Perth (Renter) - Bond Corp Holdings confirmed that it has sold its stake in Dewey Warren. Mr Tony Oates, Bond finance and administrative executive, said the sale had been made but declined to give details.

Another spokesman confirmed Bond had bought out its 50 per cent partner in the redevelopment of St George's Hospital, London, into a hotel.

## Banner bid for Avdel increased

Banner Industries, the US engineering group, has stepped up its pressure on Avdel, the beleaguered British industrial fasteners group, when it increased its offer by 8p to 88p per share, which represents a final offer, valuing Avdel at about \$111.7 million.

Yesterday morning Banner bought 17.68 million Avdel shares in the market, a stake of about 13.33 per cent, and, in addition exercised an option over 26.4 per cent, which it bought from Suter earlier this year.

Banner now controls or has received acceptances for 47.26 per cent of Avdel share capital. Acceptances so far run at about 4.13 per cent.

## Générale expects loss

Société Générale de Belgique said it expected to lose between Bfr500 million (£7.38 million) and Bfr2 billion net in 1988 because of restructuring. It said the dividend on this year's results would at least match the Bfr114 per ordinary share paid on 1987.

## £21m deal

Optic-Electronic Corp, an offshoot of United Scientific, has been awarded the \$38.6 million (£21 million) US Army laser procurement contract for the design and production of the eye-safe hand-held laser range-finder.

## Bid approach

Shares in Johnstone's Paints leapt 17p to 135p on news of a possible bid. The board has promised a further announcement.

## Trimoco stake

Bishopgate Investments, an arm of Banque Morgan Grenfell en Suisse, has acquired T Cowie's 9.9 per cent share stake in Trimoco, the Luton motor dealer company, and now holds 19,199,000 shares, representing a 24.8 per cent stake.

## Rental boost

Property group Wyndham has picked up a clutch of properties from Rugby Securities in a £10 million deal. The acquisitions will boost Wyndham's rental income to £747,000 a year.

## Property sales

Capital and Regional Properties, the investment company, is selling two office buildings and has exchanged contracts for the sale of a building in London in deals worth £3.3 million.

COMMENT David Brewerton

# Time for David Jones to decide what's Next

The Mr Happy of the High Street this morning should be David Jones, the former mail order manager who stepped into the chief executive's office, and his helicopter, when George Davies was sacked from Next just before midnight on Thursday.

But the thrill of the chase, the late-night meetings, the winning over of the rest of the board (especially John Roberts, finance director and long-time associate of Mr Davies) are over. Now, David Jones has to get down to the business of piloting Next through a high street recession, and it will not be easy.

One of the reasons that Mr Davies was sacked was that he took too many of the decisions himself. He was poor at delegation. "Retail," he would say, "is detail." He involved himself in too many decisions.

Next's stopgap chairman, Michael Stoddart, insists there always was a great team operating alongside Mr Davies, and that the group has no need to replace him with any outside talent.

"David Jones is to my mind an absolutely excellent man," said Mr Stoddart on the morning after the night of the long knives. But if Mr Davies did keep too many cards too close to his chest, the excellent Mr Jones may not yet know what was in his hands. He will have a great deal to learn. Fast.

Mr Stoddart comforts himself with the thought that not even George Davies could have built Next into a 600-unit chain without teamwork. The "excellent man" has an "excellent team," says Mr Stoddart, an old City campaigner who has been in the boardroom, and in and out of the chairmanship, since Next was J Hepworth, the "hand-cut tailoring" operation.

Between them, the new chairman and the new chief executive should manage to tidy the group up a bit. Mr Jones will concentrate on costs and margins, the pedantic elements which will nevertheless give a more designer look to a profits line which is beginning to look decidedly frayed. Mr Stoddart will keep the institutional shareholders on-side. But 18 months down the line, when profits have picked up under the accountants' rule, it is far from clear who will have the new ideas which keep retailing alive.

It would not be at all surprising if, before then, Next becomes somebody else's problem. Mr Davies, as he sits at home with his wife, must be wondering whether he could buy the company back: either the whole shooting match or simply Next Retail, which accounts for less than a third of group profits. Buy-in funds are in ample supply.

Alternatively, Sears might like the look of Next. Even without a retailing chief executive, Next could have plenty to offer Sears on the fashion front, while Mr Jones could work wonders with the numbers at Freemans.

Woolworth Holdings has shown, much to the surprise of many, that the retailing ideas of others can be developed by executives with no real retail flair of their own. Grafting good ideas onto an organization with a solid respect for financial ratios can produce consistent growth, without running the risks of the over-expansion to which entrepreneurial spirits are prone.

And by the same token, any company which ousts its chairman and chief executive is likely to carry elements of division for years afterwards, especially when the victim is as inspired a leader as Mr Davies.

## End of a thorny problem

A few people in the semiconductor industry will have a sneaking feeling that the transistor will go the way of the hovercraft and other Great British Inventions: sold to an overseas buyer to develop rather than exploited in the United Kingdom.

The transistor, the "computer on a chip", is a sideshow to Immos, the semiconductor manufacturer set up by the Labour Government in 1978 to allow Britain to find a place in a fast-growing world market, and purchased by Thorn EMI in a rash moment in 1984. For most of the time Thorn has owned Immos, it has wanted to sell it, or even give it away. It has talked itself hoarse with so many potential partners that achieving a decent price became impossible, even when Immos made its long-awaited push into profit this year.

For Thorn, the sale, when it finally comes, will be a matter for great celebration. The company has cost it around £300 million, and is unlikely to get much for it except a shareholding in

a joint venture and removal of about £100 million of debt from the balance sheet. No deal is yet signed, and although it appears highly likely that a group including Thomson-SGS, the Franco-Italian semiconductor maker, will buy, Thorn will say nothing until contracts are signed. Joint ventures with joint ventures are apt to fall apart before they begin, as there can be too many interests to satisfy.

Immos has been through the whole gamut of possibilities as to its future. It was to be a management buyout, but the funds didn't come up. Plessey was interested, but the City said no. And since it went into the black this year, the idea that Thorn should in fact hang on to it has also been widely canvassed.

The fact is, no matter how profitable Immos may become in the next year or two, it will soon have to start investing for the next generation of semiconductors, and at the same time would need to manufacture across the world rather than only at Newport, Gwent.

# Payout lifted as Dowty jumps

By Colin Campbell

Dowty Group is raising its interim dividend from 2.5p to 3.2p a share on the back of a 28 per cent jump in pre-tax profit to £32.5 million, and is looking forward to a satisfactory end to the year.

The profits advance during a period when turnover rose by 24 per cent to £351.9 million reflects a strong performance by the aerospace, information technology and industrial divisions, and despite a lower profits contribution from the mining division, said Lord Harrowby, the chairman. Results from the recently acquired CASE group are included for the first time.

Dowty has now put up for sale its mining division and is also selling the hydraulic pump and motor and the railway businesses of the industrial division.

"Negotiations about these asset disposals are now at a delicate stage," Lord Harrowby said. A reasonable price was expected but Lord Harrowby would only add that net assets of the mining division were around the £50 million mark, and those of the industrial division £10 million. A successful sale would make Dowty more "ambitious and



All smiles: Dowty chiefs Lord Harrowby, with pipe, Reg Moore and Tony Thatcher

hungry" for acquisitions, he said.

Dowty shares advanced by 5p to 214p on results.

The group's order book for contracts associated with the new Airbus Industries

A330/340 aircraft now totals £460 million, and there is an improving workload from Boeing.

In the six months ended September 30 Dowty realized £2.4 million from the sale of a

surplus property. Property sales, for business reasons, are likely to be a regular feature of Dowty activities in future, Mr Tony Thatcher, the chief executive, said.

Temps, page 24

## French buy more water companies

By Rosemary Unsworth

More British water companies are to be taken over by the French. Tending Hundred, an Essex water supplier, has agreed a £10 million bid from General Utilities, whose parent is Compagnie Générale des Eaux.

General Utilities already holds 16 per cent of Tending which it bought in the summer during the spate of water company takeovers by French firms.

General Utilities has also made an agreed £8.3 million bid for Folkestone & District Water in which it has no shares. But the company said the directors and certain associated parties, representing 20 per cent of the shares, would irrevocably accept the offer.

Générale des Eaux now has control of, or declared interests in, at least nine of the 29 British water companies.

These remained independent after 1974 when the Conservative Government established the water authorities which are to be privatized next year.

# EEC moves closer to single market for financial services

From Michael Dynes, Brussels

The European Economic Community moved closer to the creation of a single market for financial services yesterday after the adoption of proposals about securities prospectuses and capital adequacy ratios for banks and credit institutions.

Under the new rules, all share and bond issues must be accompanied in advance with detailed prospectuses, designed to provide investors with Community-wide information and protection.

But the Commission's con-

troversial attempts to include the \$60 billion-a-year Eurobond market in the new legislation has effectively been dropped after objections by Britain and Luxembourg that it would lead to the migration of the flourishing Eurobond market to financial centres outside the Community.

Ministers approved a compromise exempting Eurobond issues from the new disclosure rules, where they are "underwritten and distributed by a syndicate, two of whose mem-

bers have their head offices in different member states."

In effect, prospectuses will be required only for Eurobond issues accompanied by publicity aimed at small investors, leaving institutional issues free from potentially cumbersome regulatory procedures.

Ministers also agreed to the so-called "own funds" proposal, which defines the minimum solvency ratios required for banks and other financial institutions to operate anywhere in the Community.

## Coloroll pulling out at McCall's

By Cliff Feltham

Mr John Ashcroft's home furnishings group, Coloroll, has called it a day at McCall's, the US sewing pattern business acquired this year as part of the £217 million takeover of the John Crowther textile group.

Mr Ashcroft, the Coloroll

chairman, yesterday said McCall's was filing for voluntary protection under Chapter 11 of the United States bankruptcy code. "We were not prepared to put good Coloroll money into a bad Crowther deal," he said.

He said Coloroll had always intended to sell the business, which was bought by Crow-

ther in an \$80 million (£43.46 million) deal last year.

He said the business was still making profits of about \$9 million a year but these were being wiped out by high debt charges. He said the value of the investment inherited from Crowther (\$7.5 million) had been reduced to nil as a charge to goodwill.

## Spanish Rocket returning

Ian Stephenson, the former Wood Mackenzie partner who quit the City nine months ago for the sun and fun of Spain, has been enticed back by the siren call of the stock market. Stephenson, aged 42, has, I hear, been appointed head of UK equities at Salomon Brothers, the US securities house. Known affectionately as "Rocket," after George Stephenson, an ancestor who invented the railway engine of that name, he will be taking up his newly-created position, following expansion and consequent delegation by Peter Clarke, managing director of international equities, on January 2. "Big Bang was like the start of a marathon and the firms that are struggling now are those that sprinted too soon," Stephenson says. Salomon's equities division has recruited just 11 people during the past 12 months, and it was one of the first to opt for large-scale redundancies, laying off 150 in its commercial paper and money market arm just before the crash. Stephenson's return is something of a surprise. When he resigned as institutional sales director at County NatWest he intended to move to Spain indefinitely, and set up, with his wife, Patsy, a windsurfing school and a luxury holiday company for yuppies. "I got bored and needed a bit more stress in my life," he admits. "Patsy knew it was time to come back when she found me reading a four-day-old financial page."

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Examples on the cards

Is Nigel Lawson trying to tell us something with his choice of Treasury Christmas card, I wonder? The card - which is, I am told, universally unpopular with Treasury staff because of its total lack of seasonal associations - features a black and white picture of William Gladstone. Historians among you may recall that Gladstone served three electoral terms as

Chancellor of the Exchequer before going on to serve four terms as prime minister. Perhaps our present Chancellor thinks we missed the point last year. His 1987 choice was similarly sombre, depicting William Pitt the Younger, Britain's youngest prime minister. But, then again, perhaps Lawson is merely remembering his age...

## Yen to wed

Gazing at those frenzied young men in Tokyo dealing rooms, pictured whenever stock markets behave erratically in the Far East, one can hardly believe that they might be shy. But it seems that they are. And now someone is

making money out of it. A new business venture in Japan called the Attack Agency charges the local yuppies £90 just to propose to their loved ones, because they are too shy to do it themselves. How can market-makers in the East and West, who have so much in common, be so different?

## Cash drain

They say that you can tell how rich a country is by how much its citizens worry when they lose their spare change. In Britain, a lot of people would not lose any sleep if a 50p coin went missing. But the Japanese, by comparison, are almost too rich. Asked in a Tokyo poll what they would do if they lost a ¥10,000 note - worth roughly £45 - 73.1 per cent said they would check through their pockets again and 1.6 per cent said they would report it to the police. But 11.9 per cent said they would "figure that's life and forget about it".



"And don't forget to fax the Christmas cards"

## Fox hunts

While Richard Branson promises that the new Virgin record store he plans to build in Melbourne, Australia, will be the biggest in the world, some of his other business achievements are being emulated, and indeed outstaged, down under. Branson's decision to buy back Virgin Group's shares because of his dissatisfaction with the City's attitude is apparently being closely studied by a number of Australian entrepreneurs who floated their own companies in the heady days before the stock market collapse. First to follow suit in Australia is Sir Lindsay Fox, whose Linfox warehousing and transport group is among the most successful new companies in Australia. He has, just like Branson, been perturbed by the market's rating for his shares and has apparently offered to buy them all back. And he is offering to pay the issue price, plus a dividend and interest at the current double-figure Australian rate. Somewhat better terms than those offered by Branson.

## Post dated

It is not true that the tax man has no heart. On the contrary, the tax authorities have entered in the spirit of the season and agreed not to post any tax bills or indeed anything that might be deemed bad news to taxpayers from tomorrow until the New Year. The only fly in the ointment is that the tax men in question are West German, and not our own dear Inland Revenue.

Carol Leonard

- TENNENT CALEDONIAN BREWERIES  
BASS MITCHELLS AND BUTLERS  
BASS WALES AND WEST  
BASS IRELAND  
BASS NORTH  
TOBY RESTAURANTS  
CHARRINGTON AND CO  
AUGUSTUS BARNETT  
BASS & TENNENT SALES  
ALEXIS LICHINE  
HEDGES AND BUTLER  
BRITVIC CORONA  
CORAL SOCIAL CLUBS  
BASS LEISURE  
HOLIDAY INNS INTERNATIONAL  
CREST HOTEL CHAIN  
BASS EXPORT  
DELTA BIOTECHNOLOGY  
CORAL RACING

## ALL ADD UP TO ANOTHER RECORD YEAR

Preliminary results to 12 months ended 30th September 1988		
Turnover	+16.2% to	£3734.3 million
Profit before tax	+22.9% to	£448.6 million
Earnings per share	+22.9% to	88 pence

These are some of the Companies that made it a record year for Bass. Profit before tax rose 22.9% to £448.6 million. Turnover was 16.2% higher at £3734.3 million. Earnings per share increased by 22.9% to 88p. Dividend per share recommended to increase by 20.2% to 18.10p. Bass has excellent brands, first class pubs and highly experienced people.

The purchase of the Holiday Inns trade mark and assets outside North America established an important base for worldwide expansion.

Beer volume increased by 3% against an estimated market increase of 1%.

Pub retailing results were very good and offer significant growth opportunities for the future.

Bass now has four divisions: Brewing & Pub Retailing; Hotels and Restaurants; Leisure; Soft Drinks, Wines & Spirits and Other Activities.

We continue to be confident of the opportunities for profit growth from our businesses during the coming year, despite the less certain economic environment.

**BASS**  
ADDS UP



300	13	25	40	64	72	75	1550	H	1%	3...	207.207.207	-
December 11, 2000 - Total: 30000 Calls 10000 Peds 17414 FTD-NE: Calls 2283 Peds 3736												
Underlying security price:												



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LONDON TRADED OFFER

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or better this figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always leave your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Cost of 100
1	ASDA Group (m)	Foodst	100
2	SA Breweries	Breweries	100
3	Stout Charr (m)	Chemicals	100
4	Amersham	Chemicals	100
5	Wair	Chemicals	100
6	Lovell (V)	Building	100
7	DAK Simpson 'A'	Draperies	100
8	Ely (Wimborne)	Draperies	100
9	Stardom (m)	Draperies	100
10	McIntosh	Leisure	100
11	Br Dredging	Building	100
12	Raine Ind	Building	100
13	Barlow Rand	Industrials	100
14	Bryant	Building	100
15	Tunstall	Electricals	100
16	Enkine Hse	Industrials	100
17	Securitor	Industrials	100
18	Royal Elect (m)	Electricals	100
19	Bosser PLC (m)	Industrials	100
20	Glywood (m)	Industrials	100
21	Rails & Tompkins	Property	100
22	Amsted (m)	Electricals	100
23	Johnson	Industrials	100
24	Concetti	Property	100
25	Hanover Drm	Property	100
26	Siech (m)	Industrials	100
27	Unilever (m)	Industrials	100
28	Bridon	Industrials	100
29	Warner Howard	Industrials	100
30	Barbour Index	Newspapers	100
31	ENS	Industrials	100
32	Tonkinsons	Textiles	100
33	Asley (m)	Draperies	100
34	Margell Comm (m)	Newspapers	100
35	Land Soc (m)	Property	100
36	BICC (m)	Electricals	100
37	MEPC (m)	Property	100
38	Handlager	Property	100
39	Lopes	Property	100
40	Downy	Motor/Aircraft	100
41	Trifford Park	Property	100
42	Trinity Ind	Newspapers	100
43	General Motor	Motor/Aircraft	100
44	Remedy (m)	Industrials	100

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

#### BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Best Price Change Year High Year Low

#### SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Company	Price	Change	Year High	Year Low
ASDA Group (m)	100	0	100	100
SA Breweries	100	0	100	100
Stout Charr (m)	100	0	100	100
Amersham	100	0	100	100
Wair	100	0	100	100
Lovell (V)	100	0	100	100
DAK Simpson 'A'	100	0	100	100
Ely (Wimborne)	100	0	100	100
Stardom (m)	100	0	100	100
McIntosh	100	0	100	100
Br Dredging	100	0	100	100
Raine Ind	100	0	100	100
Barlow Rand	100	0	100	100
Bryant	100	0	100	100
Tunstall	100	0	100	100
Enkine Hse	100	0	100	100
Securitor	100	0	100	100
Royal Elect (m)	100	0	100	100
Bosser PLC (m)	100	0	100	100
Glywood (m)	100	0	100	100
Rails & Tompkins	100	0	100	100
Amsted (m)	100	0	100	100
Johnson	100	0	100	100
Concetti	100	0	100	100
Hanover Drm	100	0	100	100
Siech (m)	100	0	100	100
Unilever (m)	100	0	100	100
Bridon	100	0	100	100
Warner Howard	100	0	100	100
Barbour Index	100	0	100	100
ENS	100	0	100	100
Tonkinsons	100	0	100	100
Asley (m)	100	0	100	100
Margell Comm (m)	100	0	100	100
Land Soc (m)	100	0	100	100
BICC (m)	100	0	100	100
MEPC (m)	100	0	100	100
Handlager	100	0	100	100
Lopes	100	0	100	100
Downy	100	0	100	100
Trifford Park	100	0	100	100
Trinity Ind	100	0	100	100
General Motor	100	0	100	100
Remedy (m)	100	0	100	100

#### FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change	Year High	Year Low
ASDA Group (m)	100	0	100	100
SA Breweries	100	0	100	100
Stout Charr (m)	100	0	100	100
Amersham	100	0	100	100
Wair	100	0	100	100
Lovell (V)	100	0	100	100
DAK Simpson 'A'	100	0	100	100
Ely (Wimborne)	100	0	100	100
Stardom (m)	100	0	100	100
McIntosh	100	0	100	100
Br Dredging	100	0	100	100
Raine Ind	100	0	100	100
Barlow Rand	100	0	100	100
Bryant	100	0	100	100
Tunstall	100	0	100	100
Enkine Hse	100	0	100	100
Securitor	100	0	100	100
Royal Elect (m)	100	0	100	100
Bosser PLC (m)	100	0	100	100
Glywood (m)	100	0	100	100
Rails & Tompkins	100	0	100	100
Amsted (m)	100	0	100	100
Johnson	100	0	100	100
Concetti	100	0	100	100
Hanover Drm	100	0	100	100
Siech (m)	100	0	100	100
Unilever (m)	100	0	100	100
Bridon	100	0	100	100
Warner Howard	100	0	100	100
Barbour Index	100	0	100	100
ENS	100	0	100	100
Tonkinsons	100	0	100	100
Asley (m)	100	0	100	100
Margell Comm (m)	100	0	100	100
Land Soc (m)	100	0	100	100
BICC (m)	100	0	100	100
MEPC (m)	100	0	100	100
Handlager	100	0	100	100
Lopes	100	0	100	100
Downy	100	0	100	100
Trifford Park	100	0	100	100
Trinity Ind	100	0	100	100
General Motor	100	0	100	100
Remedy (m)	100	0	100	100

#### OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change	Year High	Year Low
ASDA Group (m)	100	0	100	100
SA Breweries	100	0	100	100
Stout Charr (m)	100	0	100	100
Amersham	100	0	100	100
Wair	100	0	100	100
Lovell (V)	100	0	100	100
DAK Simpson 'A'	100	0	100	100
Ely (Wimborne)	100	0	100	100
Stardom (m)	100	0	100	100
McIntosh	100	0	100	100
Br Dredging	100	0	100	100
Raine Ind	100	0	100	100
Barlow Rand	100	0	100	100
Bryant	100	0	100	100
Tunstall	100	0	100	100
Enkine Hse	100	0	100	100
Securitor	100	0	100	100
Royal Elect (m)	100	0	100	100
Bosser PLC (m)	100	0	100	100
Glywood (m)	100	0	100	100
Rails & Tompkins	100	0	100	100
Amsted (m)	100	0	100	100
Johnson	100	0	100	100
Concetti	100	0	100	100
Hanover Drm	100	0	100	100
Siech (m)	100	0	100	100
Unilever (m)	100	0	100	100
Bridon	100	0	100	100
Warner Howard	100	0	100	100
Barbour Index	100	0	100	100
ENS	100	0	100	100
Tonkinsons	100	0	100	100
Asley (m)	100	0	100	100
Margell Comm (m)	100	0	100	100
Land Soc (m)	100	0	100	100
BICC (m)	100	0	100	100
MEPC (m)	100	0	100	100
Handlager	100	0	100	100
Lopes	100	0	100	100
Downy	100	0	100	100
Trifford Park	100	0	100	100
Trinity Ind	100	0	100	100
General Motor	100	0	100	100
Remedy (m)	100	0	100	100

#### UNDATED

Company	Price	Change	Year High	Year Low
ASDA Group (m)	100	0	100	100
SA Breweries	100	0	100	100
Stout Charr (m)	100	0	100	100
Amersham	100	0	100	100
Wair	100	0	100	100
Lovell (V)	100	0	100	100
DAK Simpson 'A'	100	0	100	100
Ely (Wimborne)	100	0	100	100
Stardom (m)	100	0	100	100
McIntosh	100	0	100	100
Br Dredging	100	0	100	100
Raine Ind	100	0	100	100
Barlow Rand	100	0	100	100
Bryant	100	0	100	100
Tunstall	100	0	100	100
Enkine Hse	100	0	100	100
Securitor	100	0	100	100
Royal Elect (m)	100	0	100	100
Bosser PLC (m)	100	0	100	100
Glywood (m)	100	0	100	100
Rails & Tompkins	100	0	100	100
Amsted (m)	100	0	100	100
Johnson	100	0	100	100
Concetti	100	0	100	100
Hanover Drm	100	0	100	100
Siech (m)	100	0	100	100
Unilever (m)	100	0	100	100
Bridon	100	0	100	100
Warner Howard	100	0	100	100
Barbour Index	100	0	100	100
ENS	100	0	100	100
Tonkinsons	100	0	100	100
Asley (m)	100	0	100	100
Margell Comm (m)	100	0	100	100
Land Soc (m)	100	0	100	100
BICC (m)	100	0	100	100
MEPC (m)	100	0	100	100
Handlager	100	0	100	100
Lopes	100	0	100	100
Downy	100	0	100	100
Trifford Park	100	0	100	100
Trinity Ind	100	0	100	100
General Motor	100	0	100	100
Remedy (m)	100	0	100	100

#### INDEX-LINKED

Company	Price	Change	Year High	Year Low
ASDA Group (m)	100	0	100	100
SA Breweries	100	0	100	100
Stout Charr (m)	100	0	100	100
Amersham	100	0	100	100
Wair	100	0	100	100
Lovell (V)	100	0	100	100
DAK Simpson 'A'	100	0	100	100
Ely (Wimborne)	100	0	100	100
Stardom (m)	100	0	100	100
McIntosh	100	0	100	100
Br Dredging	100	0	100	100
Raine Ind	100	0	100	100
Barlow Rand	100	0	100	100
Bryant	100	0	100	100
Tunstall	100	0	100	100
Enkine Hse	100	0	100	100
Securitor	100	0	100	100
Royal Elect (m)	100	0	100	100
Bosser PLC (m)	100	0	100	100
Glywood (m)	100	0	100	100
Rails & Tompkins	100	0	100	100
Amsted (m)	100	0	100	100
Johnson	100	0	100	100
Concetti	100	0	100	100
Hanover Drm	100	0	100	100
Siech (m)	100	0	100	100
Unilever (m)	100	0	100	100
Bridon	100	0	100	100
Warner Howard	100	0	100	100
Barbour Index	100	0	100	100
ENS	100	0	100	100
Tonkinsons	100	0	100	100
Asley (m)	100	0	100	100
Margell Comm (m)	100	0	100	100
Land Soc (m)	100	0	100	100
BICC (m)	100	0	100	100
MEPC (m)	100	0	100	100
Handlager	100	0	100	100
Lopes	100	0	100	100
Downy	100	0	100	100
Trifford Park	100	0	100	100
Trinity Ind	100	0	100	100
General Motor	100	0	100	100
Remedy (m)	100	0	100	100

#### BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Company	Price	Change	Year High	Year Low
ASDA Group (m)	100	0	100	100
SA Breweries	100	0	100	10



Bargains, but beware  
obsolete goods

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## TECHNOLOGY

## New light on solar power

Pearce Wright on a project aiming to overcome the problems associated with harnessing the sun's energy

The world's most advanced solar-energy research centre has been opened at the Weizmann Institute for Science, at Rehovot, near Tel Aviv, for the development of new types of machines for "harvesting" the sun's energy on a vast scale.

The scheme is the brainchild of Professor Israel Dostrovsky, and is centred on a \$10 million laboratory. The object is to test ideas proved on a smaller scale — but it could provide sources of energy to replace large fossil-fuel burning power stations and other industrial processes. Indeed, in the research leading to the building of the new Centre for Solar Energy Studies, the team working with Professor Dostrovsky has been using a furnace powered by the sun that produces temperatures of 3,000 degrees Celsius for smelting exotic alloys and for other purposes.

The emphasis is now on perfecting processes and technologies for large-scale renewable and environmentally harmless sources of power.

Three of the biggest projects about to start aim to show that two of the crucial problems preventing the large-scale exploitation of solar power by industry, the storage of energy and its transmission to the customers, can be overcome.

The first involves application of a well-established machine for generating electricity, the gas turbine. The second experiment deals with a new approach in which solar energy is converted to chemical energy. A third experiment in conversion uses the diffuse rays of sunlight as the power to produce intense concentrated source of energy of a laser beam.

On a bright sunny day on the Weizmann campus, about 800 watts of solar energy fall on a square metre of land. The collection of hundreds of thousands of kilowatts needed for large scale



Heliostats at the Canadian Institute for the Energies and Applied Research at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel

projects would therefore involve vast areas.

Professor Dostrovsky says that the use of remote areas for solar energy will lessen the greenhouse problem caused by the carbon dioxide and the nitrogen oxides from burning coal and oil in power stations and vehicles. He says: "Every day that we hesitate counts against us. As the history of the oil industry shows, it can take up to 50 years to establish a new energy-supply industry."

At the Weizmann, the tech-

mediate process for experimenting under realistic solar conditions, uses a 96 sq metre, computer-controlled heliostat, or mirror, which reflects sunlight on to a huge concentrating dish. The concentrator is seven metres in diameter and composed of 600 individually curved mirrors.

About 20 kw of energy are generated at the focus of this dish, which concentrates the sunlight some 10,000 times, producing super-high temperatures up to 3,000°C.

The third stage has become possible only with the new research centre. This is capable of generating up to three megawatts (3,000 kw) of solar energy from a field of 64 individually computer-controlled heliostats. They concentrate and focus sunlight on four experimental stations that are located in a 160-ft high tower laboratory.

Solar energy, which is collected but not used for experiments, will generate steam to heat the other buildings on the campus. One of the experimental stations houses a gas turbine that is to be powered from the heliostats. Another is for the conversion of solar energy into energy-rich com-

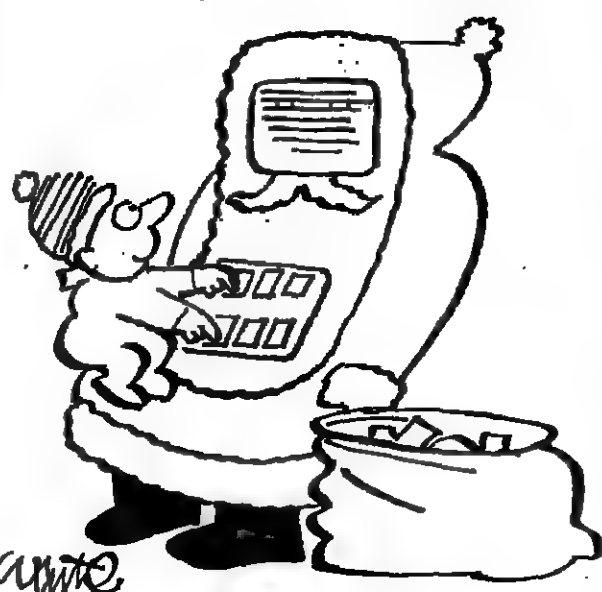
pounds. These compounds are formed at very high temperatures.

The Weizmann scientists are working on one process that is called a "reforming reaction," in which methane gas and steam or carbon dioxide are converted at very high temperatures, provided by the solar energy, into an energy-rich mixture of hydrogen and carbon monoxide that is known as "synthesis gas".

It is comparable to the town gas produced years ago and can be used for making a wide range of chemicals, including fertilizers and fuels, and could be used to replace petrochemicals.

In the power-station application, the invention depends on the fact that synthesis gas can also be used to produce methane, the starting material for the reforming reaction, through a process known as the "methanation reaction".

In this reverse process, all the energy that was absorbed in the reforming reaction is liberated. Thus synthesis gas, with its large amount of solar energy, can be stored and piped over large distances to deliver energy to customers.



## Bargains, yes, but beware the obsolete goods

By Geoff Wheelwright

If you plan to buy a computer for Christmas, good news and bad news awaits you when you brave the high street shops in search of the perfect gift.

The good news is that the machines on offer this year are more powerful than ever — with more computer memory, higher storage capacities, faster processors and better graphic displays.

In addition, there are far more computers under £400 that are compatible with the IBM PC, meaning that they can be bought for use as a business or games machines without worrying about software availability.

The bad news is that the average price of traditional home computers seems to be on the rise. Gone are many of the brand names that used to cost less than £200 leaving only Amstrad, Atari and Commodore to charge what they like for three and four year-old machine designs — such as the

computer-based games-playing consoles, but keep in mind that such systems generally do not have the same software base as a real computer, which may cost only £50 or £100 more.

In fact, you may even find that you can buy Atari's eight-bit 800XL computer at some places for about the same price as a games machine.

In the £100 to £150 section, you will find only two real contenders — though other machines, such as the Sinclair Spectrum, need a Psion Organiser, may be discounted and end up in this section.

The latter is not a home computer in the traditional sense, but a pocket computer with diary, address book and all the other functions you would expect to offer to anyone wanting an electronic personal organiser.

And the Sinclair Spectrum — now owned and manufactured by Amstrad — is offered at £140 with a cassette tape recorder and games and at £200 with a built-in disc drive.

In the next price bracket — £150 to £200 — the now-classic Commodore 64, known these days as the Commodore 64C, makes its appearance. What you end up paying for this machine will depend a lot on where you buy it, because great discounting tends to go on at this end of the market. Suffice it to say, however, that it is likely to be bundled as part of some form of pack or other with games, tape recorder and joystick.

In the £200 to £300 range, you will find little apart from Sir Clive Sinclair's Z88 portable computer from Cambridge Computer, a good laptop computer with built-in word processing, database and communications software.

The Z88, though hardly the machine you would want to play games on, would make a great first computer for students or business people, provided they also bought a printer — an extra £100 to £200.

Over £300 computers that will handle business tasks as well come into their own, especially low-cost computers that can run software and hardware designed for the IBM personal computer standard. Low cost PC-compatibles are on offer from Atari, Amstrad and Commodore.

Atari's ST and Commodore's Amiga continue to dominate the high end of the games computer market and Amstrad takes a large slice of the word processing and mid-level games machine sector with its PCW and CPC machines, respectively. All sell for less than £400.

Over that price it is hard to find a reason not to buy an IBM-compatible computer if you are considering any business-oriented work.

Low prices for old computers may be attractive but unless you plan to write your own software, steer well clear!

Commodore 64, the Sinclair Spectrum, the Amstrad CPC range and the Atari "eight-bit" family of 800 related systems. Ironically, you are still likely to see several other systems under £200 in the shops this Christmas, but some are likely to be discontinued or under-supported models.

These will have been bought in bulk from either a liquidator or foreign dealer. Such computers are often sold off instead to a high street chain for use in Christmas promotions.

Keep an eye out for names such as Enterprise, MSX, QL, Tandy Colour Computer and Commodore Plus Four. These are all among the industry's walking dead and should not be approached unless you contemplate opening a computer museum.

The low prices may be attractive but unless you have great plans to write your own software for these machines, steer well clear of them, as both hardware and software support will have died out long ago.

Better bets at the cheapest end of the scale are a motley crew of redesigned older computers and games machines. Both Atari and Nintendo are doing a lot of press and TV advertising for their

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## TECHNOLOGY

## The art of putting ideas into words

Technical writing is one job that isn't listed in any of the official surveys about employment in the computer industry, though there is an increasing demand for those with the skills.

Such writers, many freelance, explain in understandable terms complex systems in documentation such as manuals and sales brochures. The work is usually on paper, but it could be programmed for computer use. It also plays a big part in the sales process, as shown in the micro market. Consequently, companies are more prepared to pay for it

# JOBSCENE

By Leslie Tilley

than in the past, says Ian Carr, marketing director of Digitext, whose company has produced material for clients such as ICL, Digital, Prudential Assurance and Reuters.

"We have up to 100 people out working with clients at any one time," he says. "The people we need must have writing skills - as the lack of technical knowledge can be smoothed over with good communication skills."

Writers tend to specialize in the same way as some pro-

grammers stick to a particular language like Cobol. Others concentrate on reference manuals for programmers.

However, a Digitext survey discovered that more than 40 per cent of the documentation produced in the computer industry is written by staff employed on other functions, such as the project manager.

Salaries paid to technical writers are lower than those of other specialists in the industry, but respondents to the survey thought that this situation was "about right".

Mr Carr explained that a junior writer could start on £8,000 to £10,000, which could rise to more than



Ian Carr of Digitext: writing skills before technical knowledge

£20,000 for managers. Digitext employs trainees with at least six months' experience. Contractors working at a customer's site are expected to have up to two years' experience as they are

expected to work alone.

The all-rounder freelance consultant, who understands the entire documentation process from layout to photography and printing, earns the highest rate, which can be more than £20 an hour.

He or she will generally have five or more years' experience and be able to interview the software developers, write the material using a word-processing package and prepare it for printing using a desktop package.

An advantage of technical writing is that the work can be done at home. Mr Carr's firm employs many women writers who find this aspect attractive.

Hardware technical writers are expected to be more experienced than software writers, though they earn less, according to Alison Welch, technical consultant at Trident, a recruitment agency in Farnborough, Hampshire.

She says: "We like to put forward writers who have had three to five years in the computer industry, normally from a defence background, before they moved into hardware technical writing."

Software writing, she says, accounts for about 80 per cent of Trident's requirements for writers. Rates for hardware writers are about £5 an hour less than software writers.

## IBM tactic makes the phone network easier

PERSPECTIVE



The customers have cocked a collective snook at the major companies

By Trevor Sokell

reach that the major supplier companies would have preferred. But this will take time.

Meanwhile, many organizations are waiting to integrate their differing information technology systems.

This has led to the emergence of smaller companies which have the expertise to provide the glue between dissimilar systems from various manufacturers. They can offer solutions today to build the integrated information systems and networks that users want and need.

The next phase of technological change is fully to integrate ISDN communications networks, which will provide a further field of battle and bring the suppliers of phone systems on to the same ground as computer suppliers.

IBM's proprietary network, SNA, is the most obvious

example of this, since it is, in terms of the numbers of people connected, the most popular international system.

In the world of the private, corporate network, ISDN is already a reality, certainly for large organizations. In the public domain, it is more of a reality in Europe than in the United States and Japan despite, or perhaps because of, the obvious fragmentation of the European telephone infrastructure.

It is, as ever, not a lead that is likely to remain for long. The US is starting to wake up to the possibilities of ISDN and, inevitably, will catch up. How long that catching up process takes will depend very much on the attitudes of European companies and public authorities.

Several British companies have considerable technical expertise in this area, but, along with their customers, need to be more aggressive and aware of the possibilities the application of ISDN to data communications will bring.

Until now, ISDN has been driven by the carriers, such as BT. They are behind the concept for the simple reason that it provides a better return on their investment.

In the public sense, British Telecom must come up with something that looks like a policy. This means faster implementation of services, keen tariffs, inexpensive equipment costs and active sponsoring for companies willing to invest in ISDN developments.

Otherwise they will lose the European lead, and through that the world lead.

The author is managing director of 3Net, a specialist in computer networks.

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## LEGAL &amp; FINANCIAL

By Edward Fennell

## The haven of aspiring dreams

For many solicitors, the idea of a thriving practice in Oxford chambers with a coal fire in the grate and poetry books on the shelves seems idyllic; a dream to aspire to. But the hard, commercial, computerized realities of business means life is a changing

It was a good time to be in Oxford, last Tuesday afternoon. By 4.30 the news of the University's victory in the Varsity match was flashed up (or at least, chalked up) across every Quad. "We won, 27-17," wrote a scholar in sporty St Edmund Hall on a blackboard by the Porter's Lodge. In the JCR, sounds of merriment were to be heard.

But across the High Street, down New Inn Hall Street, in the Cornmarket, and in King Edward Street, solicitors with furrowed brows were worrying whether they were winning against their traditional rivals. Not, in this case, Cambridge lawyers but the big London firms of solicitors.

Week in, week out, Oxford law firms are battling with City firms in the competition for work and, more important, the fight for staff. "Recruitment is a nightmare," confessed the managing partner of one of the biggest Oxford firms. Another explained gloomily that the days are gone when Oxford graduates would happily take articles in Cambridge firms. Everyone now wants to go to London.

So though there are plenty of Oxford graduates among partners in early middle age, the cohorts behind them are mostly from non-Oxford backgrounds. The fact that the local firms have

difficulty in holding their own among the students on their own doorstep is an obvious source of exasperation.

The problem is that Oxford is too close to London. Business people in Oxford, unlike industrialists in Leeds, Manchester or Birmingham, feel just as much at home in High Holborn as they do in The High. And now that the City lawyers have a glossy cosmopolitan image, they can easily attract able and trained graduates. The smaller Oxford firms find themselves fighting for recognition in the local business community; cannot match the salaries and amenities of London when it comes to recruitment.

Ambitious partnerships, therefore, have set their hopes on the expected industrial uplift for the area in the 1990s. With the extension of the M40, the growth of high-tech businesses between Oxford and Reading, and the growing disenchantment with the high fees and low "customer care" given by some City firms, they hope the pendulum will swing their way.

Probably the best example of this is Cole and Cole, which recently moved off its "commercial" staff and set them up in fine style in a modern block at nearby Kidlington. "We're determined not to lose clients to London," explained John Cole, the partner who heads the Kidlington



ton team. "Part of our philosophy is to stop local people going to London and attract back those who have." With about 25 partners spread across 10 offices, the firm operates throughout the south Midlands and Thames Valley area.

By opening specialist "commercial" offices in Oxford and Reading, the firm has made a determined bid to spotlight its services to business. Mr Cole says: "The decision of the practice to concentrate its team of specialist commercial lawyers in a separate office out of the Oxford City centre has proved to be right. Not only have the larger commercial clients welcomed the move but the other Cole and Cole offices have also benefited from the ability to refer complex commercial problems to a specialist department."

Cole and Cole has good European links, especially with Scandinavia and Belgium, and expects to benefit greatly

from the growth of Oxford's science parks and the increasingly entrepreneurial outlook of researchers from the university. It also welcomes the recent arrival of Peter Marwick McIntock, the first of the Big Eight accountants to arrive in Oxford, as a sign that the outside world is starting to appreciate the potential the Oxford area might hold.

Unlike Cole and Cole, the 22-partner firm of Linnell is still based in the centre of town and prides itself on offering a general practitioner service in the traditional mould. Peter Butler, who looks after public relations for the firm, works from an office close to Christ Church, with a cosy coal fire in the grate and books of poetry on the shelf. Like most of his colleagues, he is deeply involved in many aspects of local Oxford life, and he and his partners can be found on the committees of most of the local charities, and sports clubs, as well as the Oxfordshire County Council. It is a busy

life but one entirely different from the experience of lawyers on London Wall. Oxford has always been fairly anglicised so maybe it is not surprising that its law firms also seem to spend much time agonizing about their futures.

Chris Butterfield is one of the country's leading experts on the road-haulage business and he has clients from Stockton-on-Tees down into the South-West. Yet he and his colleagues wonder where they will go next. A merger is attractive as a way forward - if only to put the firm in a stronger position for recruiting staff.

On the other hand, there is Bower and Bailey, a relatively new firm determined to succeed by growing its own staff, opening new premises on a speculative basis and driving the practice forward through youthful energy and professionalism. With 16 partners, it has expanded at a rate of a partner a year. It now hopes to penetrate southwards into the Thames Valley and Hampshire.

Meanwhile, the much older and smaller Darby and Son is content to stay put in Oxford but is faced with the need for heavy investment in information technology at a time when a lot of its work is at the legal aid end of the market. It has a distinguished history and strong personal links with the colleges but it is under pressure to change its style to meet the demands of the 1990s.

Historically, Oxford is well-known as the home of lost causes. The question now is whether its law firms can break through into big time "regional" work or whether they will remain stuck forever as provincial firms with a lot of talent but little opportunity to fulfil it.

## BRIEFLY

## Soft wary

■ The more that firms of solicitors invest in information technology the more vulnerable they become to the hazards of computer breakdown. An article in the autumn edition of Price Waterhouse's magazine *Leading Edge* revealed that most commercial users of computers are taking inadequate precautions against accidents such as fire, flood and power loss.

According to PW partner David Frost, a recent European survey concluded that on average 20 per cent of companies could survive only a few hours after a computer disaster. For 40 per cent it was just two days. When you think of all the billing, documentation, and record-keeping now done by lawyers via keyboards, it is easy to guess the consequences of a wipe-out. Solicitors offices were once characterized by piles of strong boxes. I wonder if they are taking the same precautions with their software? If you are proud of your contingency planning and risk analysis I should be delighted to hear from you.

■ Lucky old Spanish-speaking Nicholas de Beistien Humphrey, below. He has walked straight into Theodore Goddard as a partner after having been a sole practitioner for the last three years. Mr Humphrey, who has been recruited to build up the firm's Spanish-language group, has a wealth of experience in advising Spanish interests requiring English legal advice. What I find interesting is that, unlike some other cases of mid-career recruitment, he has been able to get his name on to the notepad at once. None of this tiresome probationary period. He is instantly one of the elect. A very nice Christmas present, too.



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## THE LAW

## Security service needs tighter rein

The Security Service Bill, printed on November 23, is long overdue. But for Mr Peter Wright, it might never have been published. On the other hand, the proposals do the minimum necessary to clean up the mess left behind by *Spycatcher*. Any applause for the Government must thus be tempered by the realization that the proposals could have gone much further.

The Bill proposes to deal only with MIS, the domestic security service, created by Royal Prerogative in 1909 in response to the imaginary German spy scare of the time. Within two years the new service had persuaded the Liberal government of the day to introduce the pernicious Official Secrets Act, which remains with us and which the Government now proposes to repeal and replace — thanks again to Mr Wright.

Apart from the fact that MIS is not a statutory body, there is no statutory regulation of its functions. It is a body created by the executive branch of government with powers and duties determined by the executive branch of government, with no parliamentary scrutiny or accountability. The big breakthrough of the Bill presently before Parliament is that legislation will for the first time recognize the service and formally define its functions.

The Bill does, however, define the functions of the service in very wide terms as being the protection of national security, particularly (though not exclusively) protection

## LEGAL BRIEF

against espionage, terrorism and sabotage, as well as from actions intended to overthrow or undermine parliamentary democracy by political, industrial or violent means. Unlike the path-breaking legislation in Canada, there is no restriction on the powers of the service to place under surveillance those engaged in lawful protest and dissent.

But, apart from the fact that the functions of the service are wide and open-ended, there is no

## There are major weaknesses in the Bill covering MIS, Keith Ewing writes

definition or limitation of its powers. Indeed, it is expressly provided in the Bill that the service can decide which groups it will monitor and place under surveillance. That decision is not reviewable by either the tribunal or the Commissioner proposed by the Bill to monitor the activities of the service. The only possible control of such decisions is by judicial review, though there is little prospect that judges in this country will wish to consider

whether or not it is unreasonable (and therefore unlawful) for MIS to watch groups like CND. Indeed, rather than define or restrict the powers of the service, the Bill in fact extends them in one crucial respect. It has become well established that the service commits break-ins to carry out its functions (technical invasions of privacy, according to Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, in the *Spycatcher* case). At the present time, this is unlawful. The

Bill proposes to legalize the practice by empowering the Home Secretary to grant burglar warrants. This is very similar to the procedure in the interception of Communications Act 1985, which authorizes the Home Secretary to grant warrants to MIS to tap telephones. In other countries warrants of this kind are granted by judges only after rigorous safeguards have been followed.

Quite apart from problems of this kind, a major weakness of the Bill (in addition to the fact that there is still no parliamentary review) is that the successful operation of the proposed methods of scrutiny depends upon an

individual complaining to the tribunal which is to be appointed by the Home Secretary. Yet it is hard to see how individuals or organizations will have access to the information which is necessary for making a complaint.

Under parallel proposals to reform section two of the Official Secrets Act, it will be an offence for a security officer to disclose information relating to security and intelligence. It will also be an offence for a newspaper to publish any such disclosure. The tribunal may thus have very little to do, which perhaps explains why the anticipated cost of the entire procedures will be a paltry £360,000 a year. For all practical purposes, the security service may continue to operate beyond effective scrutiny and control.

Dr Ewing is a fellow of Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

## Employment Appeal Tribunal

## Law Report December 13 1988

## Court of Appeal

## Employee is able to enforce order in county court

*Conoco (UK) Ltd v Neal*  
Before Mr Justice Wood, Mr T. S. B. and Mrs P. Smith  
[Judgment December 12]

An employee was entitled to enforce the payment of the monetary part of a reinstatement order made under section 69(2)(a) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 in the county court and the industrial tribunal was not bound to make an order under section 71 of the Act for failure to reinstate where the limit on compensation contained in section 75 of the Act would have to be applied.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal dismissed an appeal by the employers, Conoco (UK) Ltd, from a decision of a Grimsby industrial tribunal in October 1987 that they pay the employee, Mr Peter Neal £16,603 compensation.

They had appealed on the ground that the tribunal had erred in law in holding that the employee could enforce the payment of the monetary part of the reinstatement order in the county court under section 71(1) of Schedule 9 to the 1978 Act and that they ought to have made a compensation order under section 71 of the Act where the upper limit of £23,000 would have applied.

Section 69 of the 1978 Act provides: "(2) An order for reinstatement is an order that the employer shall treat the complainant in all respects as if he had not been dismissed, and on making such an order the tribunal shall specify (a) any amount payable by the employer in respect of any benefit

which the complainant might reasonably have expected to have had but for the dismissal, including arrears of pay for the period between the date of termination of employment and the date of reinstatement . . ."

Section 71 provides: "(2) . . . if an order under section 69 is made but the complainant is not reinstated . . . (a) the tribunal shall make an award of compensation for unfair dismissal, calculated in accordance with sections 72 to 75 to be paid by the employer to the employee; and (b) . . . the tribunal shall make an additional award of compensation to be paid by the employer to the employee . . ."

Paragraph 7 of Schedule 9 to the 1978 Act provides: "(1) Any sum payable in pursuance of a decision of an industrial tribunal . . . which has been registered . . . shall be recoverable by execution issued in the county court . . . as if it were payable under an order of that court."

Mr D. Grimshaw, legal adviser, for the employers; Mr Neal in person.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that the employee was a senior production engineer employed by an oil company. An industrial tribunal had upheld his complaint of unfair dismissal and ordered reinstatement and a monetary award under section 69(2)(a) of the 1978 Act.

The employers refused to comply with the reinstatement order. Under paragraph 7 of Schedule 9 to the 1978 Act any sum payable in pursuance of an industrial tribunal decision was

recoverable from the county court. The employers had argued that by reason of the wording of section 69 any order made under it was an entire order and that the sub-paragraphs of section 69(2) were only different facets of that one order.

They said that the use of the word "shall" in section 71 was mandatory and that a tribunal was therefore bound in the light of a failure to comply with an order under section 69 to make its award in accordance with section 71(2) where the financial limit under section 75 would apply.

The appeal tribunal was unable to accept the employers' argument. A financial award under section 69 was an essential part of the primary remedy provided by the legislation and should be regarded as one of the constituent parts of a section 69 order.

It would be contrary to the spirit of the legislation if the decision by a tribunal of what was fair as part of the primary remedy could be frustrated by the employer's act.

Unless an applicant approached the tribunal for an order under section 71 there was no obligation on the tribunal to make an order under section 71(1) or (2).

The applicant was content to rely on the order under section 69 there was no reason why he should not do so. The word "shall" in section 71 was directory not mandatory. The employee was entitled to recover the monetary element of the section 69 award in the county court.

## Special reasons end when driving emergency ends

*DPP v Feasey*  
Before Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Auld  
[Judgment November 30]

If a driver with excess alcohol in his blood drove in an emergency to his home and accordingly did so, returning her to her home where he remained some 45 minutes comforting her while she composed herself.

The respondent then drove approximately 1,000 yards back to his own home on which journey he was stopped and breathalysed and found to be substantially over the limit.

The respondent relied on the decision in *Chapman v Burke* (1986) 1 WLR 1321 where seven matters had to be considered in finding special reasons.

The justices concluded that there was an emergency throughout the respondent's journey because the respondent found it very anxious to deal with returning Miss L.

The court would certainly be slow to disturb the justices' findings and considered the words of Lord Goddard in *Chapman v O'Hagan* (1949) 2 All ER 690.

However the second journey was different, the emergency with Miss L. had been disposed of and there was no reason why the respondent could not walk 1,000 yards to his own home and the justices were wrong in law in finding that the emergency continued.

Mr Justice Auld agreed.

Solicitors: CFS, Norwich; Cozens-Hardy & Jackson, Norwich.

## Rates payment scheme not subject to medieval statute

*Quinlan v Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council*  
Before Lord Justice Slade and Mr Justice Hoggings  
[Judgment December 2]

The scheme for the payment and enforcement of rates embodied in the General Rate Act 1967 was not subject to the Statute of Marlborough 1267.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Michael Quinlan against an order of Mrs Assistant Recorder Hoggings dismissing his claim against Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council for aggravated damages for a levy of distress on his motor car in respect of arrears of rates.

Mr Quinlan in person; Mr Philip Engelman for the council. LORD JUSTICE SLADE, giving the judgment of the court, said that it was submitted by Mr Engelman that the Statute of Marlborough was passed with the intention of governing the enforcement and collection of fines and dues owed by a tenant to his lord under the old system of feudal tenure. The right of distress dealt with did not carry with it a right of sale.

The context of a statutory scheme of distress empowering the sale of goods taken was quite different from a situation in which a landlord was permitted at common law, as an act of self-help, to retain goods by way of a sort of pledge without power of sale.

The difficulty of reconciling Chapter IV of the Statute of Marlborough with the scheme for the enforcement of rates

embodied in the 1967 Act was one indication that that scheme was not intended to be subjected to the earlier statute.

Another indication was section 94(3) of the 1967 Act which ran quite counter to the provisions of Chapter XV of the old Act, containing restrictions on the places in which distresses should be taken.

It had been open to Parliament, in enacting the 1967 Act, to provide for a form of statutory distress which was not subject to the Statute of Marlborough. Mr Engelman was right in submitting that it did so.

Solicitors: Mr C. T. Mahoney, Hammersmith.

*Regina v Knightsbridge Crown Court, Ex parte Quinlan*  
Before Mr Justice Roch  
[Judgment December 5]

To mount an attack on a finding of fact which had been the basis of a judgment in a crown court by means of judicial review was an abuse of the process.

The principle that it was against public policy to allow such attacks on findings of fact in criminal proceedings by collateral civil proceedings applied equally to findings of fact in civil proceedings.

Mr Justice Roch so held in the Queen's Bench Division when refusing an application by Mr Michael Quinlan for judicial review of the dismissal by Knightsbridge Crown Court of his appeal against a judgment by Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council.

Mr Quinlan in person; Mr Philip Engelman for the council; the crown court did not appear.

MR JUSTICE ROCH said judgment for non-payment of rates was executed against the

Solicitors: Mr C. T. Mahoney, Hammersmith.

## Challenge was abuse

applicant after he had asserted before the justices that the figures in the summons were incorrect. He made the same assertion in his appeal against execution at the crown court.

The applicant subsequently instituted civil proceedings against the rating department in the course of which the disputed figures and the records of them were subjected to a very careful survey by Mrs Assistant Recorder Hoggings whose judgment was then subject to the scrutiny of the Court of Appeal.

The fact that this was an application for judicial review and the other proceedings were in the county court and the court of appeal made no distinction between this situation and that in *Hunter v Chief Constable of West Midlands Police and Others* (1982) AC 529.

His Lordship was bound by the words of Lord Diplock and had no alternative than to find that it was an abuse of the process and that it was a proper exercise of his discretion to refuse the application for judicial review.

Solicitors: Mr C. T. Mahoney, Hammersmith.

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CRICKET

# Australia troubled by small crowds and too many bouncers

From John Woodcock, Sydney

There are growing signs of disquiet in Australian cricket circles. The first two Test matches against West Indies, apart from being lost by Australia, attracted poor crowds; and even at Adelaide over the weekend, for the start of the World Series Cup, the hyped-up one-day competition, the aggregate for the two matches (18,265) was something like 15,000 fewer than had been expected. If the coolness of the weather affected the Adelaide figures, it could account only in part for the decline from previous years.

At last, too, a campaign seems to be gaining strength against the consistent bowling of fast, short-pitched balls or not far off it, of football's professional foul. The West Indians may well see this as a conspiracy, though in the next Test match, to be played at Melbourne, it will make better sense for them to pitch the ball up anyway, much as they did in England last summer.

Bill O'Reilly was at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday, to renege the North Gate after his old clobber and bowling partner, Clive Grimmett. He blames today's trade in unprovoked aggression on the failure of administrators to face up, adequately, to the lessons of the bodyline series in 1932-33.

The present chairman of the umpires' appointments committee is Col Egar of South Australia, himself a distinguished Test umpire in his day and quite possibly a future chairman of the Australian Cricket Board. He sees the present law as cumbersome and in need of revision. Egar has been studying a report, submitted by Bobby Simpson, the Australian team coach, on behalf of Allan Border, Australia's captain, which is known to be critical of the bowling tactics being used, not only by West Indies in the last Test match in Perth.

Umpires close to the scene feel that out in the middle it is becoming much too much like a war. Richards, as the West Indian captain, with four fast bowlers to Australia's two, would not agree with this. "We get angry," he says, "when people accuse us of bowling so-called throat balls. It's just not like that."

But at least the debate has begun.

Regarding attendances, we will know today and on Thursday whether the trend for staying away extends to night cricket in Sydney and Melbourne, where, each time, Australia meet West Indies in the World Series Cup.

Richie Benaud feels that if Test cricket is to survive something more must be done

about over-rates. There was a time, I seem to remember, when he thought too much was made of these, and that so long as the content was of the right kind the customer would not be worried at the end of the day if, in terms of overs, he had been short-changed.

Now Benaud writes that: "In addition to good, exciting and competitive play, we must have a proper number of overs in a Test match day — not a lousy, miserable 90, but something that provides value for money for the young spectator. It may be too late. We may have missed our chance on over-rates, but when 108 overs are compulsory in the scheduled playing hours in Australia you will have a basic chance of bringing people back through the turnstiles."

The West Indians would not care for this either; but coming from Benaud, a man of carefully measured opinions, they would respect it, and it is a clarion call of which no one will be unaware. In the last Test match it was rare for more than 12 overs to be bowled in an hour. The third day, when there was never a cloud in the sky, consisted of 77 overs, not taking into account the three overs which are allowed for a change of innings. So "good on you, Richie," as the Aussies say, and keep up the good work.



In the groove: Martina Navratilova on her way to a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Betsy Nagelsen in the final of the Kiss-100 tournament in Haverford, Pennsylvania, on Sunday

BASKETBALL

## Dunning focuses on success

By Nicholas Harling

Should England see fit to give their coaching job to Mark Dunning — who has applied for the post vacated by David Timmons — they would be taking on a man of many talents. Not least that of cameraman.

Armed with a videotape recorder, the Bracknell Tigers coach took advantage of his club's blank weekend on the Carlsberg League to capture MIM Livingston beating Titmouse's team, Hemel/Warford Royals 105-97 to maintain their challenge of the title. "I tape the videos, I write the programme notes and I sell the popcorn at half-time," Dunning said. "If you want something done..."

The encounter was of more than passing interest to Dunning and the Bracknell players who attended. Both clubs visit this week but only if the hosts emerge with two victories will England have a club capable of threatening the Scottish domination of the League.

Dunning's main concern for the two games that Bracknell must win is the attitude of his players, who have lost only one of 17

competitive games this season. "Getting properly prepared mentally is our problem," he said. "There is nothing wrong physically but we have not played well all season. But if we start playing smart or consistently we will be tough to stop."

For tomorrow's game against Royals, Dunning hopes to have both Trevor Gordon and Brian Kelly back recovered from the injuries that forced them to sit out Sunday's exhibition game in which Bracknell overcame Island 124-82. With Daryl Thomas, their popular American, back Royals will be a different proposition, as will, on Saturday, MIM, whose own American, Vic Fleming, has been named Carlsberg player of the month. Like Thomas, Fleming collected 22 points as did Tom Collier for MIM, who were heading for an upset when they trailed 68-67 five minutes after the resumption. But even though Raiton Way subsequently fouled out on a technical foul, the Scots had the resources to rally.

Not so Leicester. They col-

lected 15 points without reply to lead 68-53 only for Manchester Eagles to end a five-game losing sequence by outscoring them 21-5 over the last nine minutes. Leicester would still have won had Gary Johnson, their player/coach, added to his meagre six points with the final throw of the game. His miss means that Leicester must pick themselves up for tomorrow's rearranged National Cup quarter-final at home to Olympic City Giants who gained their first League win of the season, 110-82 at Derby's expense. Crosby, the League's leading scorer, accumulated 30 points, leaving Derby, the only club without a win, also without Brian Humes and Norman Findlay, who have both departed. Humes has been replaced by Michael Henderson, the American dismissed by Manchester Eagles.

Solent accounted for Crystal Palace 104-89 in the other League fixture, but Sunderland seemed to have the rough end of some refereeing decisions as they went out of the NatWest Trophy, beaten 89-81 at Glasgow Rangers.

TENNIS

## Jones is impressed with how Britain have bounced back

From Barry Wood, Melbourne

The parting thoughts from Britain's Federation Cup team as it left here yesterday were that the unexpected events of the past week may bring a stronger and more resilient attitude in the months ahead.

Ann Jones, the team captain, was especially impressed at the way the squad responded to its devastating defeat by Indonesia by bouncing back to reach the final of the consolation event. Only an injury to Sara Gomer then prevented victory against The Netherlands. "I definitely feel that the girls had picked themselves up and dusted themselves off, and it was very tough to do," Jones said.

"Since Indonesia, we have fought very hard in the matches and pulled out of some tight corners. We can't ease that match, but we have moved on. We've turned the corner during the week, and gained confidence in each other. Now we have to learn from the past and look forward to the future."

The development of Clare Wood was shaken briefly by the

events of the week, but she ended strongly with a superb performance against Manon Bollegraf. "I was glad to finish off with a flourish and that I got over that little wobble bit in the middle of the week," Wood said. Now the players have time to prepare themselves for the Australian circuit that begins in Brisbane in the New Year.

Meanwhile, Gomer will nurse her hip flexor, not quite knowing how it will respond to treatment.

**BOCA RATON:** Kim Warwick of Australia, overpowered Jaime Filol, of Chile, 6-1, 6-2 on Sunday to win the Prudential 'Bache grand champions final.

The grand champions tour is open to players aged over 35 and have been either ranked first in their country, won a grand slam championship, played in the Davis Cup or earned more than \$1 million in prize money.

In the doubles final, Warwick and Sherwood Stewart, of the United States, defeated Stan Smith and Bob Lutz, both of the United States, 6-3, 6-2.

Tennis books of the year

## Coherent account from an insider

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

The writer's vocation leaves little left-over time for browsing through wider literary pastures. This year, for example, one book demanded attention before four others attracted it. The demand arose from updating, for a new edition, one of my own books, *Squash: A History*.

It would be ill-advised to comment on the fruits of one's own labours, but be assured that revising a book is almost as painstaking as writing one from scratch. That view may be shared by Gordon Forbes, who also had a new edition published. *A Handful of Summers* captured the spirit of an era but, above all, was the most hilarious book ever written about tennis.

Three admirable original works were Dan Maskell's autobiography, *From Where I Sit*, a selection of the late David Gray's essays and essays, *Shades of Gray*, and *Open Tennis: The First Twenty Years*, by Richard Evans.

Pressed to make a choice, one goes for Evans because — in addition to such engaging reminiscence about the players and the play — he gave us an insider's coherent account of the political squabbles that occurred

during the most radical period of change in the game's history. Evans told us what happened and why, and brought to life the people who made it happen. Nobody else could have done that job as well, because Evans worked not only as a journalist but also, for four years, as an officer of the Association of Tennis Professionals — a role that made him privy to the sometimes Machiavellian manoeuvres of the game's administrators.

Recently there has been another outbreak of hostilities between the ATP and the International Tennis Federation. The participants would be wise to read Evans and learn from the mistakes of their predecessors.

In concentrating on the terrain with which he was most familiar, Evans failed to give women's tennis its fair share of ink. But he created a good read and a valuable work of reference.

The author's "aug shot", on the jacket, was taken by Charles Wilson, who subsequently discovered that editing *The Times* was more gratifying than taking photographs.

● *Open Tennis (The First Twenty Years)*, by Richard Evans (Bloomsbury, £12.95).

## Siddhu steers India home

Cuttack (Reuters) — Navjot Siddhu anchored the batting with a fine 67 here yesterday to lead India to their second comfortable win over New Zealand in the five-match one-day series.

The outcome was never seriously in doubt once Maninder Singh had ended a promising opening stand by New Zealand and they subsided to 67 for four.

The visitors, who won the toss and elected to bat, never recovered and managed only 160 for seven in their innings, reduced to 45 overs in anticipation of poor light later.

Watson and Kugeleijn briefly raised New Zealand's hopes when they dismissed India's opening pair with only 30 on the board, but then Siddhu, who won the man-of-

the-match award, took control and the target was reached with 21 balls remaining.

Wright, the captain, was top-scorer for New Zealand with 39, and he and Jones put on 32 for the first wicket before Maninder removed them both.

Gray attempted to repair the damage after New Zealand's collapse, but his 38 took 83 balls. Azharuddin and Kapil Dev helped Siddhu, who was out with only two runs needed, to keep the runs coming steadily.

<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	
1 G Wright b Maninder	39
2 R Kugeleijn b Maninder	16
3 M J Gough b Siddhu	4
4 E J Gray b Kapil Dev	36
5 D S Smith b A Sharma	9
6 D S Smith b A Sharma	9
7 J B Bracken not out	24
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# PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

01-481 1066

## Challenging opportunities overseas

Save the Children Fund is involved in a number of high profile overseas projects designed to support government and local initiatives.

One of the key projects we're currently working on is the Malaga Hospital in Kampala, Uganda. Having suffered from local political instability and sporadic funding, this flagship institution has now been given the new lease of life it deserves with funding from a number of donors, including the British Government's Overseas Development Administration with whom SCF is working in close partnership.

To help us continue our work we now need three talented, energetic and, above all, committed people to complete our team already comprising a Senior Engineer. You'll be part of a unique partnership between our team and the Ugandan staff dealing with real professional challenges.

**Health Management Trainer/Adviser c.£20,000**

Advising, managing and training will all form part of your wide ranging brief. Working with hospital authorities and the Ministry of Health, you will assist in developing health service management skills throughout the country. Already a Health Manager with considerable experience, you should have additional expertise in planning management strategies and developing appropriate training programmes.

**Pharmacy Management c.£20,000**

We need a Principal Pharmacist, able to take on board the massive responsibility of strengthening a management system covering all pharmaceutical services including administration and production.

**Procurement Adviser £15,000 - £18,000**

You'll have to tackle the difficult task of not only developing suitable procurement and supply systems but also for ensuring that any new system is successfully implemented.

These are immensely challenging and difficult roles with excellent rewards, both in remuneration and in terms of assisting an internationally renowned hospital to achieve its original ideals.

You'll receive a competitive salary (normally tax free) along with full living expenses and comfortable accommodation, plus educational allowances along with the chance to be accompanied by your spouse and children if appropriate.

To find out more about the work we are doing at Malaga, ask for more information from Bill Tod, Overseas Personnel Officer, Save the Children Fund, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD. Tel: 01-703 5400. Closing date: 30th December 1988.

Save the Children

## DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

c.£30,000

(INCLUSIVE OF LEASED CAR)

Bath City Council seeks a Chief Officer to lead the newly created Housing Department.

Bath is planning ahead for the substantial changes facing Local Government and has decided to retain its housing stock (7,100 units). The Council is therefore undertaking a fundamental review of policies and operations in the light of the new Housing Act and the forthcoming housing finance changes. The Director of Housing will lead this review, manage the Department during a time of major change and contribute to corporate policy and decision making.

The successful candidate will be a widely experienced professional in the housing field,

with Local Government experience at a senior level, a first class manager capable of setting priorities and achieving results, effective in securing change in a Local Government environment and responsive to customer requirements.

For an informal discussion please contact Mr Robert Mimmack on Bath (0225) 461111 Ext 2800.

For an information pack about this job please ring our 24 hour job line on Bath (0225) 447946 quoting Job Ref: HS1, or write to Richard Lowe, Chief Personnel and Management Services Officer, Bath City Council, Westgate House, Avon Street, Bath BA1 1UB.



## DEPUTY COUNTY EDUCATION OFFICER

Salary £41,000 plus Executive Lease Car available

- ★ Mortgage subsidy
- ★ Temporary housing

Essex is one of the largest County Councils with 1.5m people. The school population is approximately 224,000 and there are over 600 primary and special schools, over 100 secondary schools, together with 10 colleges.

The Deputy County Education Officer will be required to take a major role in assisting the County Education Officer with the management of the Department during a time of major challenge and change.

- ★ Generous relocation allowance
- ★ Professional fees paid

Extensive senior management experience within the Education Service is essential.

Further details and application form from County Personnel Officer, PO Box 11, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1LX (telephone 0245 492211 ext. 24101).

Closing date: 6th January 1989.

Essex County Council

## DEPUTY TREASURER

£19,359-£21,303 + Car

The successful applicant for this "traditional deputy" post will be CIPFA qualified and have several years' district council experience at senior level.

Commitment, enthusiasm and leadership are all qualities essential to exploit fully an excellent career development opportunity — both previous postholders are now Treasurers.

The Council offers:

- ★ commitment to management and personal development training;
- ★ disturbance scheme up to £5,000;
- ★ payment of professional subscriptions.

Application forms and information pack from the Treasurer, Fenland District Council, Fenland Hall, County Road, March, Cambridgeshire PE15 8NQ. Tel: (0354) 54321 Ext. 256. Closing date: 18 December 1988.

Fenland District Council















